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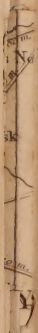

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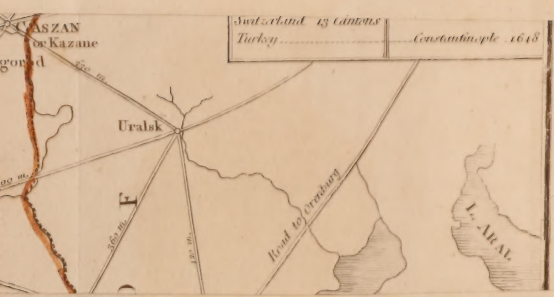
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PHILIP ASTLEY.

Born Jan.y 8.th 1742

'Twas here the Painter's Task to trace
But the mere Semblance of his Face,
The Portrait of whose Mind, more true,
Lo! his own Work presents to view.

ASTLEY'S

SYSTEM OF

Equestrian Education,

EXHIBITING THE BEAUTIES AND DEFECTS

OF THE

HORSE;

WITH SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT

OBSERVATIONS

ON HIS GENERAL EXCELLENCE,

PRESERVING HIM IN

HEALTH, GROOMING, *&c.*

WITH PLATES.

The Eighth Edition.

"To prevent Accident is better than to Cure."

DUBLIN:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THOMAS BURNSIDE,

NO. 10, LOWER LIFFEY-STREET,

And Sold by the principal Booksellers in the United Kingdom.

1802.

[*Entered at Stationers' Hall.*]

DEDICATION.

TO

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES

GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,

&c. &c. &c.

AND

FIELD MARSHAL

FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK,

&c. &c. &c.

IN preſuming to dedicate this work to your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, the Author has the honour to acknowledge that he is prompted to it by a TWO-FOLD MOTIVE—firſt, a thorough conviction that

the elevated rank, you hold in the army (by which you are ſo deſervedly beloved, for the ſedulous care you take of its deareſt intereſts) pre-eminently points you out as the NATURAL Patrons of a publication, which has for its avowed object the EASE and SAFETY of His Majeſty's Subjects, whoſe LIVES are but too frequently endangered by the want of experience in Horſemanſhip; an experience which can only be ATTAINED by an acquaintance with EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION, founded on SCIENTIFIC principles—happy is he to learn, that it is the wiſe intention

tion of Government immediately to eſtabliſh national MILITARY SEMINARIES for this ſalutary purpoſe!

The Author's ſecond inducement in laying this humble tribute of his reſpect at the feet of your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, proceeds from a high ſenſe of favours munificently conferred on his eſtabliſhment near *Weſtminſter-Bridge*. Under the auſpices of your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, it has thriven, and is thriving, and ſuch benefits, he conceives, call aloud for public acknowledgement! With theſe ſentiments, the

the Author has the honour to ſubſcribe himſelf, with profound

Reſpect and Gratitude,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESSES'

Moſt dutiful and

Devoted humble Servant,

Philip Aſtley.

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PRE-

PREFACE.

WERE men in general to consider how much a little good management would add to the beauty and perfection of the horse, I flatter myself, no gentleman would think his time ill-spent, in promoting the due cultivation of such a noble, useful, and sagacious animal. It is generally understood, that horses of a middling size have the most spirit and agility. Indeed, I am extremely fond of this kind of horse, if good tempered, if the eyes be at once bright, lively, resolute, and impudent: by the eye may be discovered his inclination, passion, malice, health, and indisposition.

Although, for a series of years, the management of the horse has been my chief, my peculiar study, it may be supposed my system will experience SOME opposition. Many persons, too wise to be taught, will exclaim—what unbounded ignorance in

in the author! how ridiculous and abſurd, to teach what every body knows!—But the many fatal accidents, which daily occur, ſufficiently prove the neceſſity of acquiring SOME knowledge of *equeſtrian education*, of which a pliability and command of the body, on horſeback, certainly forms a moſt eſſential part.

It is a known fact that many gentlemen have purchaſed commiſſions in the cavalry, merely becauſe they could ride a fox-chaſe, or a horſe-race; but a little actual DASHING SERVICE in the field of honour ſoon convinced them of the neceſſity of being taught to ride on pure ſcientific principles, and under able profeſſors. Certainly this precaution is the more requiſite in a country ſo much admired by all Europe for its breed of excellent horſes; but if we neglect to improve the action of this animal, its great qualifications become but a mere ſhadow.

I crave permiſſion to remark, that this generous and ſerviceable creature poſſeſſes the courage of the lion, the fleetneſs of the deer, the ſtrength of the ox, with the docility of the ſpaniel: by his aid,

aid, men become more acquainted with each other; he not only bears us through foreign climes, but likewiſe labours in the culture of our ſoil; draws our burdens and ourſelves; carries us for our amuſement and our exerciſe; and both in the ſports of the field and on the turf, exerts himſelf with an emulation, that evinces how eagerly ambitious he is to pleaſe and to gratify the deſires of his maſter.

He is both our ſlave and our guardian; he gives profit to the poor, and pleaſure to the rich; in our health he forwards our concerns, and in our ſickneſs lends his willing aſſiſtance for our recovery.

This fine, this ſpirited animal participates with man the toils of the campaign, and the glory of conqueſt; penetrating and undaunted as his maſter, he views dangers, and braves them; accuſtomed to the din of arms, he loves it with enthuſiaſm, ſeeks it with ardour, and ſeems to vie with his maſter in his animated efforts to meet the foe with intrepidity, and to conquer every thing that oppoſes itſelf to his matchleſs courage.

In tournaments and Equeſtrian Exerciſes, his fire and his courage are irreſiſtible. Amid his boldeſt exertions, he is equally collected and tractable; not obeying his own impetuoſity, all his efforts and his actions are guided ſolely by his rider. Indeed, ſuch is the greatneſs of his obedience, that he appears to conſult nothing but how he ſhall beſt pleaſe, and, if poſſible, anticipate what his maſter wiſhes and requires; every impreſſion, he receives, produces reſponſive and implicit obedience; he darts forward, checks his ardour, he ſtops at command; the pleaſures, attendant on his own exiſtence, he renounces, or rather centres them in the pleaſure and ſatisfaction of man.

Nothing can be more wonderful than the preciſion with which he performs every thing that is required of him; reſigned without any reſerve to our ſervice, he refuſes nothing, however dangerous or difficult to execute.

He ſerves with all his ſtrength, and in his ſtrenuous efforts to pleaſe, oft-times out-does his nature, and even dies in order the better to obey!

In

In a word, wiſe Nature has beſtowed upon him a diſpoſition both of love and fear for the human race; ſhe has endowed him alſo with that perception, which yields him the knowledge of every ſervice we can, and ought to render him. Such, indeed, are the acute and generous feelings of this animal, that he is leſs afflicted with his own bondage, than with the want of our protection! Pleaſed in an unceaſing round of labour for our health, pleaſure, profit, and protection, he feels no diſtreſs but what is cauſed by our own CRUELTY, our INGRATITUDE! All he demands from us, therefore, for a life of uninterrupted fatigue, is *ſupport*, and a *reciprocity of good offices*; his chief gratification ariſing from the ſenſe of our being pleaſed and ſatisfied with his unwearied endeavours to ſerve us.

If ſuch, therefore, be the qualities of this noble creature, ſurely he, who has devoted his life to the ſtudy of his diſpoſitions, has SOME ſmall claim to the protection of his country, and his opinion ſhould have SOME weight in a Treatiſe of this kind.

It

It is by an unwearied application in obſerving the temper and EXTRAORDINARY SAGACITY of this generous animal, that I have attained the knowledge of rendering him more pleaſing and uſeful to his rider than he would otherwiſe prove; and I flatter myſelf this work will be found to contain ſuch information and improvement, in the art of inſtructing the horſe, as were never, till now, preſented to the public. I truſt, it is no preſumption to ſuppoſe from my continual application to this ſcience, (which has been upwards of 40 years,) that what is here offered, will contain ſuch material diſcoveries, relative to the diſpoſition and management of the horſe, as to render it a work of the greateſt public utility.

I beg leave to recommend particularly to the attention of the reader, that from my having ſo long devoted my ſtudy to the temper of the horſe, I have been able to improve the art of horſemanſhip, thereby furniſhing a greater variety of PUBLIC AMUSEMENT, of higher entertainment and gratification to the public, together with much more ſecurity to the Equeſtrian Performer

former in general. "*Certainly he that prevents accident does more than he that cures*;" and I cannot but think, from the great encouragement I have received while exhibiting EQUESTRIAN AMUSEMENTS in my native and in foreign countries, that PUBLIC DISCRIMINATION has noticed the rectitude and JUST FOUNDATION of my intentions in this NECESSARY POINT, as well as in the NUMBER of PUPILS inſtructed by me in the art of EQUESTRIAN PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, and who have alſo, in return, experienced the MOST LIBERAL ENCOURAGEMENT in every country. I could wiſh this SPECIES OF AMUSEMENT, if poſſible, to become a part of our EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION:—Firſt, becauſe a greater command and pliability of body is neceſſary when the feet is placed on the ſaddle, than when we are ſeated in it.—Secondly, the practice of ſuch exerciſes not only informs the mind, but is CONDUCIVE TO HEALTH, I conceive, more than the practice of the *Manege* ſyſtem, ſo much neglected in this country, but for what reaſon I know not, unleſs it be concluded, that BOTH exerciſes form too laborious a taſk for our purſuit.

How

How amuſing is it to the pure and perfect horſeman, to ſee in Hyde Park, for inſtance, ſo many untutored Equeſtrians, who, not knowing how to adapt themſelves to the motions of the horſe, experience ſhocks in the ſaddle, which excite laughter in the bye-ſtander;—and yet they miſtake their ſtrained and diſtorted attitudes for grace and for elegance! The Enfield-Chaſe air on Eaſter Monday is ſtill viſible; they are ſtalking caricatures, fit objects for the wit and ingenuity of Mr. Bunbury!

ASTLEY's

Equestrian Education.

CHAP. I.

Mr. ASTLEY's *Syſtem of* BACKING *and* BREAKING COLTS, *or ungovernable Horſes; teaching them to bear the glittering of Small Arms, to ſtand the Exploſion of Ordnance, the Sound of Trumpets, Drums, Waving of Flags, Motions of Soldiers, and Objects of every Kind, that may alarm their Sight or Hearing.*

JUDGEMENT, TEMPERANCE, and PERSEVERANCE, are indiſpenſably neceſſary to bring the brute creation to a proper ſenſe of duty. Many gentlemen too fatally experience the bad effect of Horſes being intruſted to ignorant perſons, whoſe

knowledge of feeding, riding, training, breaking, and exerciſing, may have been obtained from practitioners of much leſs ſagacity than the very beaſts conſigned to their care and direction.

No man can render the horſe obedient, unleſs he has had ſuch experience in the art and execution, as to have acquired a thorough knowledge of what the creature is capable of performing, with the moſt ready, perfect, and eaſy ſubmiſſion; and it is requiſite to have much penetration to know every particular, in point of execution; as alſo the temper of the horſe you are deſirous of training and inſtructing for ſervice, amuſement, &c. Without ſuch great depth of diſcernment you may confirm, inſtead of correcting, a bad DISPOSITION, or change the moſt GENEROUS to the moſt OBSTINATE and REFRACTORY. No man, therefore, I repeat, ſhould attempt to reduce the horſe to obedience, without being perfect maſter of the practical part of Equeſtrian Education.

In Germany, France, &c. &c. many of the nobility and gentry obtain the moſt ſage and experienced maſters that can be procured, and theſe are required conſtantly to attend their riding-houſes, to preſerve their horſes in health, diſcipline, and exerciſe.

This

This country (inferior to none in Europe for the beauty of form, excellence of quality, and perfection of breed, in every ſpecies of the horſe, whether for battle, the *manege*, * for drawing, or the road, &c.) has too much and too long neglected this moſt eſſential point. The utility of being more circumſpect in the choice of able, informed, and experienced perſons, is apparent, from the great number of horſes that are ſpoiled by the indiſcretion of their owners, and the inability of their trainers and keepers.

If the natural motion, attitude, and demeanour, of the human ſpecies be improvable by the art of dancing, and by military tuition, ſurely the natural motions of the horſe may be ſo improved, as to render his pace in pure *cadence*, † eaſy to himſelf

* *Manege.* Place where ſaddle horſes are exerciſed, and, where they are dreſſed in the various airs; alſo every thing appertaining to the horſe in the art of war. In a figurative ſenſe—Certain fine manners, with grace, addreſs, and elegance, joined to a perfect knowledge of the uſe, perfections, and imperfections, (diſcipline and combats) of the horſe, and the purity of its action &c. and it would be of ſome benefit to the riſing generation, if alſo were added—a knowledge of equeſtrian exerciſe, ſo far as appertains to public amuſement: of its utility the Author is moſt ſeriouſly convinced.

† *Cadence* means the agreeable equality of the walk, the trot, the gallop; as alſo the various artificial paces of the horſe. I

 conceive

himself and pleasant to his rider, uniting grace and elegance. Thus improved, we receive exquisite pleasure in beholding utility and beauty combined; and it certainly becomes an object, which yields the highest satisfaction to an observer, endowed with taste and discernment.

conceive the rider may be said to be in *cadence*, when his seat on horseback is strictly agreeable to the eye: every corresponding action of the rider's body, as well as the horse, may, if regular and conformable to the pure art *d'equitation*, be called in *cadence*, similar to such measure regulated in dancing, &c. Musical expression, or sound, certainly belongs to the tuition of the horse, which I consider as an index to direct his most willing obedience; more particularly where the animal is tutored to take up your hat, whip, or handkerchief, and the like. Hence it becomes necessary, in some degree, that the professor or rider have a quick eye, as well as a good musical ear, in order to his acquiring some idea of what is understood to be necessary on the first point, with regard to regulating his action; and, on the last, to his attaining an idea of soothing and caressing immediately on the least compliance on the part of the horse to the will of his rider. *Cadence* also, in my firm opinion, is the very essence of regulating not only the horse's natural paces, but also his artificial airs: in short, every thing in which perfection and skill are necessary. But from the word *cadence* being so superficially mentioned in literary works, as well as in the riding school, one would think that the practical part of the art of *cadence*, so far as it relates to equestrian education, was a mere shadow. 'But I am strictly and firmly of opinion, having derived the greatest benefit from it in the course of my practice, that it ought to be considered as the *ne plus ultra* of equestrian execution, and generally accepted as such by all professors of the equestrian art.'

It

It is well known that recruits, taken from the plough, are, under experienced disciplinarians, rendered the best of soldiers; but should you have to improve or perfect a recruit, who has been before under bad tuition (such I have found by experience, when in the 15th Light Dragoons), you will find it scarce possible to correct the bad habits he contracted, or to remove the prejudices he imbibed, in favour of those erroneous principles.

Thus it is with a horse that had been under the tuition of an experienced master: it becomes in the extreme difficult to correct his false habits — Nothing in fact but the most incessant application and consummate knowledge will prove capable of effecting his amendment; the perseverance, however, of an able horseman will no doubt correct, in time, his faults, so as to render him as serviceable and accomplished, as his nature is capable of being made.

The present mode of training and breaking horses is highly reprehensible, and injurious to the character of a country so distinguished, as this is, for the breed of horses. There is not a scientific riding-school in this kingdom, nor any regular professor of *Equestrian Education:* neither are there any authors who have written on the subject, nor that have, as yet, recommended in any of their publi-

publications an effectual method of teaching horſes to ſtand fire! So that one of the moſt uſeful and neceſſary points, which has reference to the art of war, is at once ſhamefully and unaccountably neglected, and that too in a land where military virtue is the natural produce of the ſoil!!

We have a Veterinary College eſtabliſhment, which I conceive to be of the utmoſt importance to this country; one would ſuppoſe an Equeſtrian inſtitution would prove of equal benefit. But to return to the faults and errors of horſes, which I apprehend moſt frequently occur in the firſt ſtage of training them; for horſes poſſeſs ſuch an extraordinary degree of remembrance, as always to retain a ſtrong ſenſe of *cruel* or of *tender* uſage; and from this ſtrong faculty of diſcrimination they frequently become docile or ungovernable.

Thus it is neceſſary that their tutor or inſtructor ſhould poſſeſs ſound judgement; becauſe thoſe who treat them with ſeverity, they obey with the greateſt reluctance; while, on the contrary, all who treat them with tenderneſs, will aſſuredly be repaid with the utmoſt gratitude and moſt implicit obedience.

It has been known that cruel inſtructors have abſolutely been ſeized in the height of their vengeance,

vengeance, and killed! This ſurely is ſufficient to demonſtrate the neceſſity of uſing them with JUDGEMENT, JUSTICE, and MERCY.

But the grand error, and of which I have had occular proof, in the courſe of my practice in teaching Horſes, is, the deſiring and eagerly expecting too much from them at one time; be it well underſtood, that they ſhould be completely perfected in one leſſon, before you attempt another; this point, I am convinced, is the foundation of the whole art; becauſe, if you are over anxious in teaching them too much on one and the ſame day, you fatigue their attention, you damp their ſpirit: thus are they rendered ſo dull, as to be incapable of perceiving what you are deſirous they ſhould learn; and this ſtupidity being miſtaken for obſtinacy and perverſeneſs, the inſtructor has recourſe to untimely chaſtiſement, which alienates the affections of the creature, and renders him ſo indifferent in obeying whatever you deſire, that he executes it with viſible reluctance: but by teaching him one and the ſame leſſon at ſhort intervals, and rewarding his obedience, giving him time to imbibe what your intentions are, before you burthen his faculties with another leſſon, he will learn with eaſe to himſelf, and, I am confident, with the higheſt ſatisfaction to you. For it is the ſame with a horſe as with a human pupil, never oppreſs his talents with more than they are calculated to bear.

Such

Such precautions, I have found, have very much aſſiſted me, during the tuition of my pupils, whom I have inſtructed to perform VARIOUS NEW EQUESTRIAN PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS; ſuch I may, without vanity, ſay, as have given the higheſt ſatiſfaction, not only in *Great Britain*, but alſo in *France*, *Germany*, and on the continent of *America*. All of which have immediately ſprung from the adherence to MY SYSTEM.*

Having given theſe general hints, I proceed now to the particular inſtructions, neceſſary to complete the ſubject of this chapter.

The horſe intended to be broken, or, in other words, brought to his duty, ſhould be carefully led

* That equaſtrian exerciſes have been long ſtudied, and even, in ſome degree, carried into execution, though loſt again for ſo long a period as to the year 1765, when I firſt exhibited in public, the following beautiful lines from Homer, will illuſtrate more than a volume written upon the ſubject. See the Iliad, by Mr. Pope, vol, iv. book xv. page 182.

" So when a horſeman from the war'ry mead,
" (Skill'd in the manege of the bounding ſteed)
" Drives four fair courſers practis'd to obey,
" To ſome great city through the public way;
" Safe in his art, as ſide by ſide they run,
" He ſhifts his ſeat, and vaults from one to one;
" And now to this, and now to that he flies,
" Admiring numbers follow with their eyes!"

to

to the place of exercise, which is supposed to be a circle of from eight to ten yards diameter; care is to be taken at the same time, that his stomach be not too much loaded with food or water.

Your chief endeavours must be directed, with easy and deliberate approaches, to convince him, that neither you, nor your assistant is his enemy, to do this effectually, you are to encourage him by kind words, such as, *so, so! so, so! so, ho!* endeavouring always to imitate the same TONE OF VOICE, which he will very soon comprehend in a MOST EXTRAORDINARY MANNER; more particularly if you do not CHANGE THE SOUND; also rubbing him, and wiping his eyes and nostrils with your handkerchief, giving him to eat a small piece of carrot, or a slice of a good sweet apple, and other familiar inducements, by WAY OF REWARD. Here I have only to hint, that in point of smelling, tasting, seeing, and hearing, I conceive the horse to have the superiority over, and, in point of sagacity, no inferiority to any of the brute creation; that is to say, if such sagacity be directed by proper judgement.

But in all these endeavours, you must be careful at first (until your quick eye shall have discovered his real disposition,) not to be too familiar with him before you have got some dominion over him, lest he should strike you with his feet; which, I conceive,

conceive, the above rewards will, in ſome meaſure, prevent;—but more of this hereafter.

The apparatus neceſſary for this buſineſs, conſiſts, firſt, of a mouthing bridle or ſnaffle; ſecond, a leather ſtrong pad ſurcingle with three ſtrong buckles on each ſide; two of which four inches apart, nearly in a line with the horſe's withers, the other four, at the ſame diſtance on each ſide below; alſo between the two firſt, and exactly in a line with the horſe's withers, a ſtrong buckle and billet, for the purpoſe of receiving the ſnaffle rein; to this ſurcingle a large ring muſt be placed, to receive a ſtrong crupper, with a large dock; third, a *caveſſon*; fourth, two ſtrong *caveſſon* ſtraps, buckle and billet at one end, at the other, holes; fifth, two ditto ſnaffle or bridle ſtraps, with buckle and billets at one end, and holes at the other; ſixth, one hand or *caveſſon* line of ſix or ſeven yards long; with a ſtrong buckle and billet at one end; the rope about three quarters of an inch diameter, and three rings faſtened to it, but ſo as to play. Firſt ring, three feet from the buckle and billet; ſecond, five feet; third, ſeven feet; * alſo a ſmall bridle or ſnaffle line, with a ſmall buckle and billet at the end; this line runs through

* Moſt ſadlers are qualified to complete this buſineſs, but ſhould they not thoroughly comprehend the deſcription, the engraving, at the end of the book, will more particularly explain it.

the

the rings of the *caveſſon* cord, and buckles to the ſnaffle, or mouthing bit; laſtly, a *chambriere*, (or whip,) and a ſpur ſtick of about two yards long, the rowel blunt. *

Suppoſe you put on the *caveſſon*, as above deſcribed, alſo the ſurcingle, with or without the crupper, as your judgment ſhall direct you; likewiſe *caveſſon* and bridle ſtraps, furthermore the *caveſſon* and bridle line.

Bear up his head a little with the bridle or mouthing bit rein, to the buckle and billet of the ſurcingle; the rein of the bridle ſhould have a buckle, in order to ſhorten it at pleaſure; the whole of the bridle and *caveſſon* ſtraps muſt, at the ſame time, be ſomewhat tightened; that is to ſay, three holes ſhorter to the hand you intend to work him to; and as he foreſhortens, and raiſes his head at the time of action, your judgement muſt direct you; namely, how much his head ought to be raiſed in point of elegance, as well as his neck bent, ſo as not to impede his action; the greateſt precaution is neceſſary to be taken, that neither the one nor the other give him the leaſt uneaſineſs, the firſt or ſecond day. Cauſe him to be led by your aſſiſtant round the circle; ſay, in order to your having greater dominion over him, to the left; con-

* See the end of the book.

tinue

tinue the action of a good bold walk for three or four minutes, if he pleaſes you in the walk, put him in the action of the trot, continuing it five or ſix minutes. Your aſſiſtant having a drum near you, ſtrike it, as a ſignal for him to halt from his SUPPOSED LABOUR; if he diſobey it from fright, or not underſtanding the intention of the ſignal, cauſe him to trot round the circle again, in the ſame manner as before, for a few minutes; and thus repeat the ſignal, BUT NOT SO LOUD, and exerciſe him until he learns to halt in obedience to it; yourſelf aſſiſting him in this buſineſs, with all your judgement. Should he expreſs much fear at the ſound, endeavour all you can, by your careſſes and encouragement, to convince him that it is not meant to hurt or to terrify him, but as a kind of language by which he is to UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRES.

In order to impreſs him the deeper and ſooner with the meaning of this language, let it always be uſed as a ſignal for the END OF HIS LABOUR OR EXERCISE.

The grand ſecret is, invariably to uſe a ſoothing tone of voice, as before directed, and the reward of an APPLE or CARROT, when he ſhews obedience.

The

The ſound, or muſical expreſſion, the horſe moſt readily becomes acquainted with, and the correction being in a much ſtronger and different tone of voice, ſuch as A! HA! HA! WONDERFUL TO SAY, the horſe readily obeys the one through a HOPE OF REWARD, and the other THROUGH A SENSE OF FEAR. Somewhat in like manner, we find the cart and waggon horſe obey the ſound. The London carmen and the provincial waggoners direct their horſes to move right and left, &c. with the DIFFERENCE OF SOUNDS MERELY; now let the Londoner take the countryman's horſes, and the countryman the Londoner's; or an Engliſhman the horſe of a Frenchman, or *vice verſa*, this point will clearly elucidate my argument.

Hence ariſes the great neceſſity of every horſeman being thoroughly acquainted with the diſpoſition of his horſe, more particularly when he is YOUNG OR REFRACTORY. Moreover, I have conſidered ſignals of this kind, as the very foundation or ground-work of inſtructing horſes to PAW WITH THEIR FEET THE EXACT HOUR AND MINUTE OF THE WATCH; nod as an AFFIRMATIVE, and ſhake the head as a NEGATIVE, to any QUESTION PROPOSED.

Furthermore, it is the very eſſence of educating them, to take up from the ground a handkerchief, hat,

hat, whip, ſpur, ſword, piſtol, or any thing within the compaſs of their abilities, which the fancy of the inſtructor may conceive either for utility, or the amuſement of ſpectators.

Having taught him, by repeated trials, the full extent of this leſſon, which I call, from its being the firſt, letter A. We proceed to teach him the next, which may be called, by way of illuſtration of the argument, letter B. That is, to exerciſe him to the right, preciſely in the ſame way and manner as you did to the left; uſing the ſame ſignal, reward, and gentle puniſhment. Care muſt be taken to make his neck bend agreeably;—likewiſe, that his head be neither fixed too high nor too low; if the former, place the ſtraps to the lower buckles; if the latter, place them to the upper buckles of the fureingle; but in all this EXPERIENCE and JUDGEMENT muſt be your guides; for if he carry his head too low, and you do not, on the firſt day, correct this capital fault, it will give you the GREATEST TROUBLE to raiſe it hereafter; in my opinion, a horſe cannot carry his head too high, if PURE OBEDIENCE and good action accompany it. To the military man this may be called a defence to the body, againſt SMALL SHOT, or the point of the SWORD: it certainly, in SINGLE COMBAT, gives the horſeman a SUPERIORITY over his OPPONENT above all calculation; if the head be too high, it is very eaſy to lower it, for the moment you

you come to mount him, if you have the leaſt ſkill, you will correct this point very eaſily.

In the leſſon to left and right, I give them as follows: three quarters of an hour gentle exerciſe to the right, and half an hour to the left; that is to ſay, ſhort leſſons of five minutes given each time both ways, and an interval of reward two or three minutes between each.

Having thus ſettled the management of his head, and PURE ACTION in the WALK and TROT, ſtrictly obſerving the general rule, never to let his CROUP INCLINE TO THE INSIDE OF THE CIRCLE, on the contrary, every caution muſt be uſed to prevent it; care, I repeat, muſt be taken, not to impede his action, nor to corrupt his *cadence*, either in the walk or trot; and if your circle be leſs than eight or ten yards diameter, the more judgment is requiſite to prevent it.

Thus exerciſed, the horſe begins to have ſome little knowledge of what you are deſirous he ſhould learn; he works with more eaſe, gives greater ſatisfaction, and you find him improve faſter, in proportion as he becomes acquainted with you and his duty; more particularly, if you do not diſguſt him with too much SEVERITY.

When

When you have exercifed him to be familiar with the drum, and to follow it, you then, careffing and rewarding him, proceed precifely in the fame way and manner (that is to fay, walk and trot, for I could wifh no galloping to be reforted to during this particular leffon) to inftruct him to ftand the explofion of a piftol—making ufe of a very fmall charge—and firing of it, at firft, rather behind you, and on the ground, unperceived by the horfe; if he obey, be careful to affift his inclinations when inclinable to halt, by pulling the *caveffon* and bridle-line, and bring him to the centre of the circle: careffs and reward as before in the leffon with the drum, increafing the explofion by degrees to a good charge, in like manner as you increafe the blow on the drum-head.

Thus your care and judgement will teach him to bear the glittering of fmall arms, found of trumpets, waving of flags, and every thing that may alarm his SIGHT or HEARING.

By perfifting in the foregoing leffons, four or fix times a day, for a week or ten days, you will reduce him to obedience, however ftubborn he may be; more particularly, if your rewards overbalance the punifhment, and the latter be inflicted in PROPER TIME, and WITH JUDGEMENT.

Some

Some horſes, it muſt be confeſſed, require a conſiderable time to convince them, amid all theſe alarms, that you mean nothing inimical or unfriendly to them. But ſtill, by perſeverance, you will diſſipate all their apprehenſions, and render them ſubſervient to every thing you can poſſibly require, more particularly when great temperence is uſed; and nothing promotes the learning and acquieſcence of the horſe more (I again and again repeat it), than affording him time to reflect on what you require from him; and on the difference of being treated with kindneſs, when he obeys willingly, and a little ſeverity, when he refuſes with obſtinacy and perverſeneſs; he will then make his election, and chooſe rather to perform what he knows will not only pleaſe, but RECEIVE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS MASTER.

Exerciſing him in the circle, he preſently finds is a SPECIES OF PUNISHMENT: and the beating of the drum, firing the piſtol, &c. A KIND OF RELEASE: time ſhould therefore be given him to diſcriminate between the GOOD and the EVIL, which is thus preſented for his choice; or how can you expect he will be able to know which he ſhould REFUSE or which ACCEPT? When the horſe comprehends the difference, he will gradually ſtop, even on a ſmart gallop, the moment he hears any of the above ſignals moſt cordially, at your pleaſure; he will either halt, diminiſh his action, or

approach with the greateſt readineſs the very object that was before ſo much his terror.

Your horſe being ſo far advanced in this leſſon B, and the walk and trot being completed, proceed, as before, to teach him to gallop right and left, obſerving his *cadence*, and attending to the ſtrict uniſon of the action of his legs, as well as the graceful poſition of his head and neck: this done, proceed with the ſame puniſhment; that is to ſay, the galloping round the circle every way properly, obſerving the ſignal to relieve him from ſuch puniſhment, and the reward IMMEDIATELY OF THE CARROT OR APPLE. I preſs its being given INSTANTANEOUSLY, becauſe the LEAST DELAY IMPEDES AND TOTALLY DESTROYS THE EFFECT INTENDED to be produced by ſuch REWARD. Firſt, becauſe the horſe's eye is fixed upon you; and, ſecondly, it is your pleaſure that ought to guide him in his obedience; therefore, you ought to be before him in DISCERNMENT, which, if not properly applied, may tend to give you ſome trouble.

Care muſt be taken, during your exerciſing him, that he be not ſweated too much, and that he be never brought out for a ſecond leſſon till thoroughly dry; nor that more than a pint of water be given him at a time, and very little hay; inſtead of which, two or three handfuls of corn, at the end of

of each leſſon, will greatly aſſiſt you. Here it is indiſpenſably neceſſary to obſerve, that, in all this exerciſe, you muſt give him time ſufficient in the intervals to recover his wind; he ſhould not be exerciſed again, until you perceive his lungs have recovered the proper tone of reſpiration; for if you force him to repeat his leſſon whilſt he is panting for breath, you will INEVITABLY TEACH HIM THE MOST VICIOUS AND PERVERSE HABITS, and DESTROY HIS EMULATION: being exhauſted in ſtrength and ſpirits, without having time allowed him to recruit himſelf, cannot fail of cauſing his exertions to be ſo languid, as to render it impoſſible he ſhould perfect himſelf in any leſſon you wiſh him to be taught. The bad habits thus acquired, you will find exceedingly difficult to correct afterwards; the greater care ſhould conſequently be uſed to prevent this inconvenience, which can only be done by particularly obſerving the caution above mentioned during the firſt eight days.

The next leſſon the horſe is to be taught is, to carry the ſaddle with or without a crupper: but I would recommend the crupper and buckle ſurcingle to be put over the ſaddle; then place a bag containing a buſhel of ſand on the ſaddle, half at each end; but ſhould the horſe be too refractory to have either the ſaddle or the ſand-bag laid acroſs his back, tie up his near foot with a cord, uſing every friendly means, as before recommended, to

quiet his apprehenſions, until he has permitted you to place properly all that you deſire on him; you muſt be careful not to uſe any VIOLENCE in this part of the leſſon.

When all is thus placed, untie his foot, which is only drawn up to prevent his having the power of kicking you or your aſſiſtant; exerciſe him each way, that is, right and left, in the walk, trot, and gallop, ſtill obſerving the ſignals, rewards, and puniſhments, as before directed.

Having given him a tolerable leſſon with the ſand-bag, take it off, in order to let your rough-rider or any other perſon mount, and exerciſe him as before; during which you muſt hold the *caveſſon* rein, and by every friendly means endeavour to win his confidence and obedience. Let him, in this part of the leſſon, be only walked the firſt and ſecond morning; but ſhould he not willingly ſuffer your rough-rider to mount, or, when mounted, not carry him as he or you deſire, then place the ſand-bag on him again, and gallop him ſeverely, to convince him of what he makes himſelf ſuffer from his diſobedience.

When you have brought him, by theſe means, to let you or your aſſiſtant mount him, let him be ridden by your rough-rider every two hours, obſerving that, if he prove refractory, you firſt exer-

ciſe

cife him with the ſand-bag; this will make him the more deſirous of being ridden gently, than of carrying this weight, under which he finds himſelf, as I before obſerved, ſo uncomfortable.

I would particularly recommend all quarrels to be avoided between the inſtructor and his horſe, during his teaching him theſe leſſons; but yet, I would not adviſe you to ſtand inactive with the whip in your hand; the horſe may conſider this kind of indulgence as ariſing more from fear than from humanity: and if he ſhould once think you are really afraid of him, you will find he will exerciſe every means to convince you, that he conſiders himſelf YOUR MASTER, INSTEAD OF ACKNOWLEDGING, by IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE, that YOU ARE HIS.

However, in teaching him where the ſuperiority lies (I cannot deſiſt from repeating), be ſure to uſe your power of diſcipline with JUSTICE and with MERCY. The horſe can reflect;—he can diſcriminate between deſerved chaſtiſement and unprovoked ſeverity; and if you find it neceſſary to puniſh him for his diſobedience with the whip, ſpur, &c. it muſt be on the moſt urgent occaſions, and with the greateſt moderation.

The horſe being inſtructed in this third ſtage of the buſineſs, next proceed to teach him the fourth. This

This conſiſts in making him thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand;* and the various preſſures of the leg, &c.

And in order to adjuſt his natural paces; THE WALK, TROT, and GALLOP, in a juſt and elegant manner; alſo the teaching him to rein back, turn to the right and right about; turn to the left, and left about, on his own ground; and to leap, ſtanding, or flying, without which, no eſſential ſervices can be expected from him: but to accompliſh theſe points the horſeman muſt have a perfect pliability and command of his own body, other-

* *Bridle-hand, &c.* Comprehending its numerous requiſites, namely, the elegant and delicate *appui*: the neceſſary *aids*, &c.; for, I conſider the *appui* a kind of telegraph-communication between the bridle-hand and the horſe's mouth; that is to ſay, if the horſe's mouth be delicate, freſh, ſenſible, and obedient to the bridle hand; but on the contrary, if the mouth be hard, callous, and the horſe diſobedient, the *appui* is totally loſt, and of courſe cannot operate; thus, from the laſt cauſe, nothing but deſtruction ſtares the rider in the face; particularly in SINGLE COMBAT, &c. in the field of honour, and in the SERVICE of his COUNTRY. The neceſſary aids I conſider ſuch, as turning to the RIGHT, to the LEFT, &c. The latter, perſons of moderate capacity eaſily attain, but my great experience in the Equeſtrian Art thoroughly convinces me, the complete knowledge of the *appui* can only be acquired with conſiderable difficulty: and furthermore, I am of opinion, that this highly neceſſary part of EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION can only be attained in the *Manege*, by great practice, under judicious, experienced, and able profeſſors.

wiſe

wife he will never be able to adjuſt and regulate the different paces which are required of him.

Perſiſt in the before-mentioned exerciſes until he is thoroughly fearleſs of all objects that before uſed to be his terror; for the teaching him to be familiar with drums, trumpets, flags, fire-arms, &c. prevents his ſtartling at any unuſual noiſe, or uncommon objects on the road.—The more frequently he is thus exerciſed, the ſooner will he attain perfection in his duty.

Moſt men, however, are liable to be ſo much miſtaken in the proper method of correcting a horſe, which ſtartles at any object on the road, that they ſpur and whip the intimidated animal up to whatever has thus frightened him.—By this means, they not only riſk ſpoiling, or breaking the ſpirit of the horſe, but they hazard their own ſafety.

It was by this improper and injudicious mode, that Mr. ASTLEY, ſurgeon, at Putney, loſt his life. His horſe ſtartled at a broad-wheel waggon on the road, Mr. A. adopted the uſual method of ſpurring his horſe, until he made him approach the waggon; which he no ſooner did, than the wind gathering under the tilt, raiſed it in ſuch a manner, that it alarmed the horſe ſo much, as to cauſe him to throw his rider inſtantly under the wheels, which paſſed

paſſed over and killed him on the ſpot. The danger of this method is ſufficiently evinced by this, and a thouſand ſimilar examples. By obliging the horſe in this haſty manner to approach what terrifies him, you increaſe his fears, in the proportion of his proximity to the object, and when he is driven cloſe to it, if he have any ſpirit, you will find that he will ſo ſuddenly fly from it, as to render it almoſt impoſſible for the beſt of horſemen to keep their ſeats.

What renders it ſo difficult is, that the rider having accompliſhed his deſire of forcing his horſe cloſe to the object, thinks himſelf no longer in danger; and thus is ſo eaſy and careleſs in his ſeat, that when the horſe ſtartles in this unexpected manner, it is more ſurprizing that he ſhould not be thrown, than that he ſhould.

Having ſhewn the danger of this imprudent method, it is proper I ſhould give ſuch directions as may cure the horſe of this vice, without endangering the life or limbs of the rider. When he ſtartles at any object, inſtead of increaſing his fear, by forcing him to what he is thus endeavouring to ſhun, or riſking yourſelf being thrown over a bridge, under a carriage, into a pit, &c. you ſhould chaſtiſe him at a PROPER DISTANCE FROM THE SAID OBJECT, until his fear ſo much abates, that you perceive him rather inclined to approach of himſelf.

ſelf. Then you may direct him gently to it; and, as he goes nearer and nearer, encourage his confidence with the moſt gentle words and endearing careſſes. In this manner, you will find, when he has gone entirely up to the object, his ſpirits will be ſo calmed, that you will not be in the leaſt danger of flying from it, in a more violent and dangerous manner than he did when it firſt caught his ſight or hearing: but ſhould this firſt trial prove unſucceſsful, IT MUST BE REPEATED, UNTIL YOU HAVE OBTAINED YOUR DESIRE. In this you muſt be ſure to obſerve never to force him to the object, until you find his fears have ſubſided, and that his confidence has returned.

To ſhew the value of having horſes properly trained and diſciplined, it may not be improper here to obſerve that I have, ſeveral times, bought, at different repoſitories, horſes, for a very inconſiderable ſum, in conſequence of their not being completely corrected of thoſe vices, which they derive from their natural ſhyneſs and untamed ſpirits: for, when they have been found to ſtartle at any object they meet, and are undiſciplined, little uſe, profit, or convenience will they afford to their owners, who are thus happy in availing themſelves of the firſt opportunity of ſelling them for what they can poſſibly get offered.

Thus

Thus have I bought the beſt horſes, and for a few guineas! The danger of riding horſes of this deſcription is ſo great, as to render them, indeed, ſcarcely worth keeping by any, except by the moſt experienced horſeman. It is only by ſuch, that they can be governed or mounted with ſafety, and with any proſpect of having them corrected of their vicious habits; and as there are very few riders, who have any claim to the title of horſemen, the difficulty of rendering ſuch horſes uſeful is ſtill the greater, and conſequently tends to reduce the price in proportion.

Horſes of this denomination I have never bought, unleſs I diſcovered they had good form, great activity, and much ſpirit; for without theſe qualifications, all the diſcipline and inſtruction, the beſt maſter can give them, will prove of no poſſible avail.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Dialogue on Equeſtrian Education.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is but too true that the ſcience of the *Manege d'Equitation* is conſiderably in arrears, with reſpect to the execution and pure *cadence*, to be obſerved, not only in regulating the natural action, but alſo the artificial paces of the horſe.

I have ever evinced a zeal to convince the riſing generation of the great benefits naturally to be expected from the gentle treatment of the brute creation in general, and of well and deliberately conſidering their temper and diſpoſition; ſtrictly having an eye to the grand outwork-*cadence*; an eſſential point which few perſons trouble themſelves about, notwithſtanding the great advantage that may be derived from its practice.

The

The late Earl of Pembroke, in the year 1759, placed me on horſeback in the *Manege*, at Wilton; my worthy friend, the late Sir Sidney Meadows, who laboured late and early in promoting the ſcientific part of Equeſtrian Education, ſeeing the minuet danced by two horſes, mounted by myſelf and ſon, expreſſed himſelf to me as follows: "I ſee, Aſtley, your horſe is ſenſible of the aids to a very great degree of perfection; and you are alſo truly ſenſible of the encouragement neceſſary to gain his acquieſcence; continue, Aſtley, to conſult his inclination, and the horſe will take a pride to obey."

It is underſtood by profeſſors that if the experienced horſeman but touch the intelligence of the theory of this honourable and uſeful ſcience, the end will be anſwered.

My late general, George Auguſtus Elliot, (Lord Heathfield,) as well as his ſon, the preſent gallant Lord, alſo the preſent gallant Earl of Pembroke, and the brave General Floyd were with me in the old Equeſtrian School; and I know well theſe heroic noble characters moſt anxiouſly wiſh for ſcientific ſchools, in order to promote a more extenſive knowledge of Equeſtrian Education; and I am convinced they would afford every aſſiſtance to profeſſors of this art.

Prejudices

Prejudices and ill-grounded opinions, ignorant oppoſition, and croſs tempered difficulties, have, I conceive, in ſome degree tended to obſtruct a knowledge ſo uſeful, and ſo highly neceſſary to the ſafety of the horſeman.

The late Lord Chancellor Clarendon, in his excellent dialogue on education, among his tracts, page 325, ſtrongly recommends the eſtabliſhing of riding-ſchools, both at Oxford and Cambridge.

He obſerves that ſuch eſtabliſhments are worthy of ROYAL BOUNTY: I think his words ought to have been printed in golden characters.—I hope it will not be long before ſuch inſtitutions will be formed, not only in Oxford and Cambridge, but alſo in every great town throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland, in like manner as they are in Germany, France, &c. In my travels, taking Bruſſels, Vienna, &c. in my road to Belgrade, in 1782, I had the honour to be introduced, (by ſending my name to the Profeſſor) into every principal *Manege* in thoſe countries. Sir Robert Murray Keith, then miniſter plenipotentiary at the court of Vienna, did me the honour of introducing me to the Emperor. His Majeſty expreſſed himſelf very deſirous of ſeeing me on horſeback; I immediately complied, and obſerved to his Majeſty, "That I ſhould be highly obliged to his Majeſty, if he would permit me to amount an old horſe;

horſe; for, added I, being a young horſeman, two who are both unexperienced, might not afford his Majeſty much pleaſure." Accordingly an aged *Manege* horſe was brought me, equipped with a half peak ſaddle; on my taking a view of the whole, I found (in their hurry) they had not placed either ſaddle or bridle properly; I therefore adjuſted them myſelf, uſing every precaution as I would with a young colt; on which one of the aſſiſtants told me, I had no occaſion to be afraid of the horſe;—I very politely uncovered and thanked him—repeating theſe words: "The horſe never having ſeen me before, may ſhew ſome ſigns of his ſagacity; and that I always made it a point, till the animal was convinced of my diſpoſition towards him, to act with precaution, that I conceived there was more merit in preventing an accident, than in curing one." The Emperor replied in French, (conceiving I did not ſpeak that language,) as follows, turning himſelf to the aſſiſtant: "You ſee, ſir, the gentleman is right, and I wiſh this meaſure of prudence was generally adopted."

Stirrups and every thing being adjuſted, I mounted, keeping in view the pure Equeſtrian ſyſtem, uncovering, &c. to his Majeſty; I recovered my whip, and walked the horſe right and left up the middle of the *Manege*; made ſeveral ſmall circles both ways; finding my horſe thoroughly obedient

obedient to my hand and heel, his head lofty, and that, by the uſual aid, I could foreſhorten him at pleaſure, I diſpenſed with the trot, and encouraged him to the *paſſage*; increaſing each way to quick action, *terre-a-terre* in various figures, inclining by my aids to the *pirouette*; knowing that the greateſt ſkill was neceſſary to accompliſh this artificial pace, the execution of which I conſider as the *ne plus ultra* of pure *cadence*; the horſe readily obeyed; after a moment I cauſed him to walk, advancing him in this natural pace till I came between the pillars; I raiſed his head, preſſed his ſides, and put him into the *piaffe*; uncovering, I thanked his Majeſty for condeſcending to honour me with his approbation; which his Majeſty was pleaſed to return, paying me the higheſt compliment.—I ſtopped the horſe, diſmounted, and wiped his face with my handkerchief, ſhook the ſnaffle, (for be it underſtood, it was with the running ſnaffle I rode him,) and gave him a couple of APPLES TO EAT, which being obſerved by his Majeſty, he aſked me which of the two was better for horſes, CARROTS or APPLES? I informed his Majeſty, that CARROTS were excellent, but I conceived that AN APPLE greatly aſſiſted in refreſhing the mouth, and that it was one of the rewards I made uſe of to gain their affections.—His Imperial Majeſty ſmiled, and requeſted me to walk into the palace.

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE *between the* AUTHOR, *a* PROFESSOR *of the Manege D'Equitation, and a young* CAVALRY OFFICER.

OFFICER. HAVING a long time entertained a defire to learn the art of training the horfe, I am anxious to know what are the qualifications neceffary for attaining the knowledge of a fcience, which, from its importance, claims at once the patronage of the fovereign, and the particular attention of the fubject.

PROFESSOR. Your intention to acquire the knowledge of an art, the moft noble, and of exercifes the moft ufeful, redounds greatly to your credit; infomuch, as they amufe the mind, while they give grace to the body. The information neceffary to be acquired, for perfecting you in this fcience, Mr. Aftley is amply qualified to communicate.

OFFICER. Of his ability, I entertain not the fmalleft doubt; I have feen, with pleafure, his equeftrian amufements, both at home and abroad; he has obtained great reputation in that art.—Mr. Aftley, I beg therefore, in the firft place, to be informed, what are the proper means to obtain a knowledge of the cavalry-exercife? In the next, I will thank you to explain the affertion of the Profeffor, namely,

ly, that this exercise is not only necessary to the body, but to the mind?

Mr. ASTLEY. I am happy to hear that you feel yourself inclined to acquire a perfect knowledge of the science of Equestrian Education. To satisfy this laudable curiosity, it may be remarked, that all sciences and arts, acquired, as it were, by reason, are obtained amidst repose, uninterrupted by any torment, agitation, or uneasy apprehension; thus affording the scholar an opportunity, as well in the absence as presence of the master, of profiting by the lessons, which he has received—but in the cavalry exercise it is widely different, for that cannot be obtained without mounting the horse.—Here the pupil has to encounter all the extravagances belonging to a powerful, and perhaps a vitious animal; and the perils which arise from his fury and sloth, joined to the apprehensions which may result from them. These can only be shunned by obtaining a knowledge of the science, and possessing a good disposition and sound judgement; without which, he will not discover, (and which is necessary to be known,) that, in order to succeed with the horse, it is absolutely requisite to be acquainted with his disposition, and with his vices; and with the same readiness and promptitude that a scholar enters into the spirit of an author, whom he is anxious to understand. Hence you may discover, how far this science is useful to

the mind; ſince it inſtructs and accuſtoms it to execute, in the moſt perfect order, all its functions, ſurrounded with the buſtle, agitation, and continual fear of danger; the only method of fitting a horſeman to the performance of the like operations in the field, amid the many hazards which there ſurround him.

Relative to the advantages, which the body derives from a frequent uſe of this exerciſe, it is to be remarked, that it gives a pliability to its members, and improves the conſtitution; but it is neceſſary to live ſoberly and regularly, free from debauchery, and, indeed from every exceſs: for if the conſtitution be at all impaired, ſucceſs in horſemanſhip is utterly unattainable.

Professor. I am perfectly ſatisfied with the remarks of Mr. Aſtley, who is aſſuredly in poſſeſſion of every requiſite for the attaining a perfect knowledge of that moſt uſeful art; ſuch as relates to the cavalry and to the ſafety of the individual in attack and defence;—and I am convinced that, ſo far as an acquaintance with the theory can aſſiſt the young horſeman, the ſyſtem of Mr. Aſtley is the only one to which he can turn his attention.

Officer. I believe I underſtand the points on which we have treated, and I wiſh to know how,

how, in the firſt inſtance, Mr. Aſtley inſtructs his ſcholar?

Mr. ASTLEY. The major part of mankind are, generally ſpeaking, endowed with the capacity of performing in ſome degree, in the different exerciſes invented for their amuſement; ſome, however, more expertly than others, eſpecially thoſe to whom nature has given a good underſtanding, limbs ſupple, and a body well proportioned; every way deſirable for obtaining the pure knowledge, requiſite for the equeſtrian art diſtinctly.

OFFICER. What ſized perſon do you conſider as the beſt adapted to this exerciſe?

Mr. ASTLEY. I give the preference to the middle ſize, provided he be ſteady, light, and of ſuitable vivacity; he being the beſt adapted to afford pleaſure to the horſe; the larger ſized man is, in general, not ſo firm, and from being too corpulent, deprives the horſe of that pleaſure, which he would receive, if under the inſtruction of one of the former claſs; hence ariſes the maxim, that "TO PERFORM WELL AND WITH A GOOD GRACE, THE HORSE, AS WELL AS THE HORSEMAN, SHOULD AND MUST TAKE MUTUAL PLEASURE IN THE EXERCISE." But although men of ſhort ſtature are the moſt firm on horſeback, that is the ſole advantage they poſſeſs;

for not having, generally ſpeaking, ſufficient power, they cannot enforce obedience on all occaſions; and this the horſe ſoon diſcovers, by his wonderful ſagacity, and refuſes to obey, from a knowledge that he cannot receive the chaſtiſement due to his diſobedience. If, however, as is ſometimes the caſe, the neceſſary qualifications be found united in a perſon of the middle ſize, he cannot fail to inſure ſucceſs to the greateſt extent of his wiſhes, whether his views be directed to the purſuit of glory in the field of battle, or to the more homely amuſements of the chaſe.

OFFICER. In what manner ſhould a horſeman be habited?

Mr. ASTLEY. It is far from being my deſire to reſtrain any perſon from dreſſing according to his fancy; perſuaded, that men of ſound judgement, will always ſtudy utility, and adopt that beſt ſuited to the occaſion; but, ſince long experience has taught me to avoid that which incommodes the body in the execution of its functions, I ſhall briefly ſtate, that the faſhions of the day are to be avoided, when found to operate to the diſadvantage of the horſeman; I prefer thoſe only, which do not deprive the rider of the free uſe of his limbs, nor obſtruct the horſe while under tuition.

OFFICER.

OFFICER. What are the firſt things to be required of the ſcholar?

Mr. ASTLEY. Nothing can be more unpleaſant than to ſee a man on horſeback in an ungraceful poſition; and too much care cannot be taken in the manner of ſitting, to avoid bad habits, which, once eſtabliſhed, are not eaſily removed. To conſtitute the pure horſeman, the ſcholar muſt acquire by practice and obſervation, the methods of dreſſing and exerciſing all kinds of horſes in the various departments of the *manege*, and under able profeſſors; he muſt become acquainted with their ſtrength, inclinations, habits, perfections, and imperfections, as alſo with their nature in the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the expreſſion.

Arrived at this knowledge, he will ſoon diſcover the powers and capacity of a young horſe, and train it accordingly, whether for BURTHEN, DRAUGHT, the ROAD, or FIELD: in the execution of which, it is proper to remark, that patience and reſolution, gentleneſs and force, (when required) are to govern his conduct.

OFFICER. Pray explain how a pure horſeman ought to place himſelf on horſeback?

Mr. ASTLEY. Having taken his ſeat, he holds the bridle in his left hand; the thumb above, and the

the little finger underneath, in order to ſeparate it; at the ſame time adjuſting it with the right hand, to form it into a proper length; he muſt then graſp and fix it to its place, which is about three fingers above the pommel of the ſaddle: on the ſaddle he ſhould ſit upright, touching it, as it were, only in the centre; and gaiety ſhould mark every movement. His ſhoulders ſhould be kept down; his breaſt forward; his elbows at a ſhort, but equal, eaſy diſtance from his body; his right hand within four or five fingers from his left; holding in the former his whip, pointed upwards, but inclining a little towards the left ear of the horſe; his thigh advanced and his feet firm, but unconſtrained, in the ſtirrups, with the heels turned rather out, ſo as to expoſe the ſeams of his boots: two things neceſſary to be remarked, in order to their BEING AVOIDED, are, the bringing the ſhoulder too forward, and the turning out the heel, to keep the rowel of the ſpur from the belly of the horſe, leſt, by a ſudden effort of the animal, he might prick himſelf, and increaſe his fury: theſe notions, as they are wrong, ought to be reprobated; ſince by ſhunning ſuch practices, a pliantneſs of body, and its due equilibrium on the ſaddle, are, alone, to be acquired. Such is the poſition in which I wiſh to place my ſcholar, as the only one calculated to give him that grace, without which he cannot be ſtyled A FINE FIGURE ON HORSEBACK; nor acquire that power over the horſe, ſo neceſſary on all

all occaſions; of the truth of this aſſertion, the following remark is a ſufficient proof:—In turning to the right, the rider turns the wriſt of the bridle-hand, with the nails *upward*, letting fall the whip on the neck, and this without raiſing the elbow, leſt it ſhould be found neceſſary to check the horſe for lazineſs; which is done by ſtriking him upon the left ſhoulder, thereby cauſing him to take a firmer poſition on his haunches, and to raiſe himſelf forward; or if the rider wiſh to bring his head to the left, he muſt obſerve the contrary: in either caſe, care muſt be taken neither to incommode the horſeman, nor the horſe, ſo as to make either quit that graceful poſition, which it is neceſſary mutually to preſerve.

OFFICER. I clearly underſtand you—but I wiſh to learn more diſtinctly the rules, which you obſerve, to give that grace, you and your pupil poſſeſs; and thoſe, alſo neceſſary, to train (with that facility for which you are ſo much eſteemed,) the different horſes intruſted to your care?

Mr. ASTLEY. It is impoſſible to inſtruct a man and a horſe at one and the ſame time; for the very plain reaſon, becauſe they are both ignorant.—I prefer, however, to inſtruct the rider firſt, and for this obvious reaſon:—The ſcience of horſemanſhip, as far as it relates to EQUESTRIAN AMUSEMENT, never arrived at that perfection, which it has at

at prefent attained. In early times, when the art was in its infancy, the horfe was only inftructed in the three paces of WALK, TROT, and GALLOP; in after ages, experience taught our brave anceftors that the *terre-à-terre*, *courbettes*, *balotades*, *croupades*, *cabrioles*, &c. were neceffary for felf defence, in fingle-combat, as well as to acquire a greater command of body.

But in commencing with a young fcholar, I inftruct him in the different movements of the horfe, in its various natural paces; in the true ufe of the bridle-hand; in the delicacy of aids (as they are termed); how and when they are to be applied; and when chaftifement is to be inflicted: this I do by placing him on a well-trained horfe, the better to explain the different movements, which one, not judicioufly dreffed, would attempt to oppofe, to the certain injury of both. Hence arifes the reafon for which I prefer, in the firft inftance, to inftruct the man, that he may avoid the dangers to be encountered by his being feated on a young, and perhaps, a reftive horfe, and alfo to prevent him from contracting any bad habits under an unexperienced rider.

OFFICER. I approve very much of the reafons, you have affigned for inftructing the man firft; fince it appears that the horfe, being well trained, affords him that affiftance and confidence not to be derived

derived from one of the oppoſite deſcription:—but to avoid giving you the trouble of a farther relation of the method you employ to inſtruct the pupil on ſuch a horſe, I will thank you to ſtate the plan you purſue, when a perſon ſufficiently qualified to perform the various exerciſes in your preſence, takes one to break for the purpoſes before deſcribed.

PROFESSOR. Much, I have often remarked, depends upon the inclination, the ſpirit, the capacity of the ſcholar, and equally as much may be advanced with regard to the horſe.

Mr. ASTLEY. Exactly ſo; and in order to diſcover his temper, the eyes muſt be minutely inſpected, with a view to find out his force, and his *vices*, if he have any.—His modes of defence muſt be aſcertained, together with the action, which he employs when inclined to diſobedience; and his action, when his paſſion has ſubſided. Until this information can be obtained, the man and horſe cannot be ſaid to have eſtabliſhed their friendſhip, and patience, with a fund of reſolution, on the part of the performer, are the only means to effect it. I again repeat—patience to diſcover and correct the trifling faults of a horſe, and reſolution, when neceſſary to chaſtiſh them.—But it is worthy of remark, that there is as great an impropriety in chaſtiſing

chaſtiſing him, when not really guilty of an error, as there is in withholding correction, when through ignorance, inattention, or paſſion, he refuſes to obey.

OFFICER. I am perfectly ſatisfied with theſe reaſons, the more ſo, as they are given previouſly to our coming to the practical part; but I believe, it would not be improper to ſtate here, the method you adopt in ſelecting your horſes for the different uſes to which they are applied.

Mr. ASTLEY. Italy, once famous for horſes, furniſhed a great many to the neighbouring nations;—the Spaniſh breed, too, was ever in high eſtimation;—Turkey always had, and ſtill has, excellent cattle; very few, however, are allowed to be exported;—Germany, and the Low Countries, poſſeſs a hardy race;—and ſome (though not many) there are in France, that deſervedly have their admirers alſo.—The Barb, from its many excellent qualities, has been introduced into moſt countries; and it is from this horſe that the preſent Engliſh race may he ſaid to have derived that ſuperiority ſo peculiar to themſelves: provided, however, a horſe be well made, with handſome legs and feet, ſufficiently ſtrong and active, according to the duty required of it, and (what is highly neceſſary,) of a good diſpoſition, I care little, if at all, from what country it comes.—I muſt, nevertheleſs, acknowledge,

ledge, that the more it partakes of the breed of the Barb, the more it is to be eſteemed.

PROFESSOR. Mr. Aſtley has wiſely choſen the Barb; but I have diſcovered that this horſe, generally ſpeaking, has a very tender mouth: for this, however, he will tell you there is a remedy, ſince a good riding-maſter is in poſſeſſion of means to aſſiſt it in this point, by making uſe of certain artificial bits, invented to prepare the mouth for the reception of the real ones: with reſpect to their utility, I can declare that the Barb has in a ſhorter time than any other horſe acquired a perfect knowledge of the movements and manœuvres required of him, and which he has executed with a grace, of which no deſcription can poſſibly convey an adequate idea.

OFFICER. The rare qualities which you deſcribe this horſe to poſſeſs, make me particularly deſirous of knowing how one of this deſcription is treated in the action of dreſſing it.

Mr. ASTLEY. I do not call a horſe trained, until it be perfectly obedient to the hand and heel, quietly ſuffering itſelf to be directed in its various movements, according to its force and vigour, at the will of the rider; for a horſe muſt be paſſive and have no volition. The mind of a horſe may be compared to the bloom on fruit, once corrupted it is

is deſtroyed for ever; and that gentleneſs of diſpoſition which it before poſſeſſed gives way to vice, which the horſe cheriſhes to his own deſtruction, and oftentimes to the very material injury of that inſtructor, who has the temerity to attempt again the reducing him to obedience. Having found by experience that it is with no ſmall degree of difficulty the horſe is inſtructed in the good *voltes*, as well as in the *terre-à-terre* (in doing which much depends on the eye and knowledge of the rider, and in the choice of the ground), I firſt teach him thoſe exerciſes in the circle and on the ſquare; bringing him, by little and little, to endure the bit, by placing a ſmall rope in his mouth, and uſing a *caveſſon* made of cord.—In theſe exerciſes I employ two men, one to hold a long line uſed on the occaſion, the other a *chambriere*; the latter, walking by his ſide, cauſes him to approach the ſpot determined by the length of the line, and, arrived there, he turns with the croup out of the circle, the head facing the centre, to which his eye is naturally directed.—Thus he is accuſtomed to a very good habit, that of obſerving his track in perfect *cadence*, right or left, whether the croup be directed toward the centre or the head.

Professor. Mr. Aſtley is perfectly right in noticing the great difficulty there is in turning the horſe, and directing his eyes, which is the foundation of the *voltes*; for very frequently I have known him

him to avoid the hand, when taking a position on his haunches he has formed a quarter or a half *volte* with such a line, but never the intire *tour*. Sometimes, indeed, I have seen him, as if for amusement sake, make two or three *courbettes*, *cabrioles*, or *balotades*.—But most horses have a particular kind of gift, and in nothing more do they differ than in their dispositions; yet it is remarked that the movement of turning is the most difficult.

Mr. ASTLEY. That which my friend has observed respecting the reason for my commencing with the most difficult part of the exercise, styled, changing in the *voltes*, is strictly just; and it is very essential to pay the greatest attention to the choice of the ground, so far as relates to a true circle, or square of such line as the horse is required to work on in perfection. Having, in part, succeeded in this movement, I take him to the pillar (or a round table as a substitute), and there exercise him right and left in the walk, two or three days, without inflicting any punishment with the whip: in the next place, I employ him ten or twelve at the trot, and it is at this period that he shews his nature, force, inclination, and docility; by which I discover (and the better without a rider on his back) the particular service for which he is adapted; I say, the better without a rider, as he is then more master of himself, and has the greater power and inclination to oppose the horseman.

When

When in the trot or gallop he muſt not be preſſed too hard, nor kept too long at it at one time, leſt the foot of one leg ſhould ſtrike the other, and by cauſing pain induce him to ſet up a defence, and refuſe to obey.—When he goes freely in the walk and trot (which is eaſily obſerved by his *cadence* and gaiety), he may be put into the gallop, and occaſionally into the *terre-à-terre*.—But too much attention cannot be directed to the circumſtance of keeping the horſe in GOOD WIND, ſince an oppoſition to reſpiration will induce him to REBEL; he will be inſenſible to the tongue, whip, and ſpur, and totally unfit for any vigorous exerciſes on that day; indeed I have known more horſes forced to diſobedience, by the inattention of their tutors to this very particular, than to any real diſpoſition of their own.

In working a horſe in the circle, it is generally to the left, and the reaſon is, that on that ſide the inſtructor has the moſt DOMINION OVER HIM: this I allow; but I never loſe ſight of working him alſo OCCASIONALLY TO THE RIGHT; and this I do with a view to break him, in ſome degree, of the natural inclination of turning to the left; from the following cauſes: he is accuſtomed always to be mounted, and have his capariſons put on, from the left, and very often (though improperly) to receive his corn and water on the ſame ſide. Again, when a horſe goes to reſt, he lies down on the

the right ſide, which obliges him to turn his head and neck the contrary way.—Theſe reaſons inconteſtibly prove the inclination of the horſe to keep his head towards the left, which warrants the improved practice of leading him always with the RIGHT SIDE REIN, and of working him occaſionally to that ſide in the above leſſon.

OFFICER. I perfectly well underſtand the reaſon for your inſtructing the horſe in the right-hand *voltes*, and am aware of the difficulty in effecting it. With reſpect to the circumſtance of not allowing the horſe to be beaten in the commencement, you imagine, I preſume, that all horſes are diſpoſed to obey without having recourſe to harſh means; but if, as there are horſes of different tempers, bad as well as good, one of the former deſcription ſhould fall into your hands, how would you treat him?

Mr. ASTLEY. I have ſaid that care muſt be taken not to beat the horſe in the commencement, if poſſibly it can be avoided; and I now go farther, and declare, that if all chaſtiſement can be diſpenſed with, even during the whole of the time employed in training, I prefer it; firmly perſuaded that gentleneſs, on the part of the tutor, will effect more than all the beating that can be inflicted; and the reaſon will appear obvious, when it is proved that mild means are alone capable of

creating

creating a desire in the horse to learn his exercises, which is discovered by the grace he displays while under tuition.—Force has the contrary effect, and often occasions accidents both to MAN and HORSE; insomuch as the former runs the risk of being maimed, if judgement do not accompany chastisement, and the latter, in addition to the like risk, receives a check in his gentleness, and his legs and feet are rendered, perhaps, incapable of performing their necessary functions. The better to elucidate this passage, I will give a short account of the nature and capacity of horses. In Italy where the practice of training the horse is much encouraged, every one is rejected that may be found not immediately to possess the necessary qualities, whatever may be his form; there, the furious, the wicked, and the lazy, are invariably sent to the coach or the cart. In this, and in most other countries, however, I observe the natives are not so particular in this respect as the Italians; a circumstance which accounts for the greater patience necessary in the teacher, and for the improvement made in the science.—In the method I have adopted, I have, as before observed, paid particular attention to brevity, from a dislike to perplex either the man or the horse.

When this animal refuses to obey, a prudent horseman will consider the cause. If the horse be impatient, furious, or mischievous (or whatever be the

the oppoſition he may ſeem inclined to make; he will only THREATEN to beat him, ſhortening the cord: this is ſufficient chaſtiſement, and better, by far, than any to be inflicted with the bridle or ſpur, if he be mounted; ſince the reins, the legs, and the *caveſſon*, from being rendered uneaſy to him, give him an opportunity to avoid puniſhment, by doing that, which he ſoon underſtands, he is required to accompliſh: but if, through the ill conſtruction of the *caveſſon*, he ſhould have recourſe to other means of defence, whether in retreating or running againſt the poſt, a ſtroke or two with the *chambriere* will bring him up and compel him to advance.—Here let the inſtructor give him to underſtand that obedience will invariably produce careſſes: by purſuing this method, the horſe diſcovers the neceſſity, and cheriſhes the inclination, to execute every manœuvre required.

When a horſe ſhews a diſpoſition to be lazy, or to perform in a ſlovenly manner, and when theſe faults (and great ones they are) incline him to diſobedience, the *chambriere* muſt be uſed, and vigorouſly, but not frequently; JUDGEMENT, JUSTICE, and MERCY, being points which the horſeman muſt ever keep in view: however, this is conſidered as the laſt reſource, and to be applied only in extreme caſes. If he diſcover a hard or a dry mouth, his defence will be forward, forcing the hand; but for this he ſhould not be beaten, but

thrown upon his haunches, and exercised gently in the trot and gallop until he perform his lesson with freedom and ease; and an apple or carrot frequently given will refresh his mouth, and assist the *appui*. On the other hand, if the horse be heavy, and such weight prevent him from doing his duty, it must be rendered lighter by a continuation of the lesson; but if he discover any signs of malice, care must be taken, unassisted by force, or it is very likely his own weight will bring him to the ground.

OFFICER. You have given excellent reasons for commencing with the most difficult parts of the exercises, and have explained the means employed in reducing the most violent tempers.

MR. ASTLEY. When I discover that a horse obeys me freely in the walk, trot, and gallop, and that he has some notion of the *terre à-terre*, I endeavour, by degrees, to acquaint myself with the power of his memory; for, after the lesson round the ONE PILLAR, I fix him between the TWO, and, with the whip-hand, teach him to avoid the strokes, causing him to proceed slowly on different sides. As the horse finds himself much constrained by the *caveſſon*, he cannot here, be exercised in too gentle a manner, which is the only way to break him of his faults; and to this he submits, as it were, voluntarily, perceiving that he cannot escape

eſcape by advancing, retreating, or turning to the right or left; but if, which is very rarely the caſe after application of the above means, he ſhould refuſe to obey, he may again be taken to the ONE PILLAR, and the cord of the *caveſſon* ſhortened, ſo as to bring his head cloſe to it; and there, with the whip, thrown on his haunches: thus the horſe ſees the neceſſity of complying, in the firſt inſtance, where he is at liberty to act, and which generally he prefers ever after.

OFFICER. I am of opinion that this leſſon, well given, is ſure to produce the deſired effects.

Mr. ASTLEY. Doubtleſs: before this time too the horſeman has aſcertained the powers and capacity of the horſe, and the particular ſervice for which he appears deſigned; he teaches him to ſhun the *chambriere* in his exerciſe round ONE PILLAR, and then ties him between the TWO: he inſtructs him, by means of that fear which is cauſed in the horſe, to go from the walk to the trot, from the trot to the gallop, thence to the *terre-à-terre*, and to inflict on himſelf that puniſhment with the *caveſſon* not to be given by man.

From a continuation of this leſſon, three good effects reſult:—firſt, the horſe never has a bad mouth;—ſecondly, he is not reſtive;—and, thirdly, he is no ways obſtinate, having no deſire

to turn to either ſide; faults often obſerved in young and unexperienced horſes.

OFFICER. How is it poſſible that a horſe with naturally a bad mouth, having an inclination to be reſtive, or poſſeſſing various vices, is taught to avoid them?

Mr. ASTLEY. By turning he is compelled to go forward, and when ſhewn the *chambriere*, he is alſo compelled to ſtop ſhort at the will of the inſtructor.

OFFICER. It appears to me that you find the ONE PILLAR ſo uſeful, that you commence, continue, and complete, by its means!

Mr. ASTLEY. It is true, that thoſe who work the horſe with judgement, adhering to the leſſons contained in this treatiſe, for their guidance, may inſtruct him in the due carriage of his head, and uſe of his limbs, in every part of the exerciſe.

OFFICER. How long is it before you place a man on horſeback?

Mr. ASTLEY. Before I place a man on horſeback, I requeſt him to execute, and that with facility, the leſſons with the bridle and ſaddle; which may occupy his attention nearly five days (provided the

the inſtructor be a good one): but it ſometimes happens that, for want of ſuch knowledge in the ſcholar, and ſuch caution or ability in the maſter, the horſe is ſpoiled, and the rider expoſed to danger: indeed, if the latter be at all deficient in this part of his profeſſion, he cannot ſee the inutility of beating, or not beating, the horſe, or be a ſufficient judge when puniſhment ought, or ought not, to be inflicted.

OFFICER. What is the reaſon that you have the ſtirrups hanging when no perſon is on horſeback?

Mr. ASTLEY. I do this for two reaſons, particularly when I meet with horſes poſſeſſed of more ſenſibility than the generality of them have; in the firſt place, I do it to accuſtom them to the motion of the ſtirrup againſt the belly; and in the ſecond, as it gives the horſe a firm tail (a circumſtance which requires attention) nothing having a worſe appearance, than to ſee a horſe whiſk it about while under the management of the tutor.

When accuſtomed to the ſtirrup, and the movements required of him, without offering any reſiſtance, I place a light ſcholar on his back, that the horſe may be as little interrupted as poſſible; and, by giving the rider a good ſeat, I enable him to

to oppoſe the animal, in caſe he ſhould refuſe to obey the rein.

At the firſt time of mounting he ſhould not wear ſpurs, but ſit ſtill, and not move the bridle; permitting the horſe to carry him, as it were voluntarily. This leſſon ſhould be continued two or three days, in the preſence of the inſtructor, uſing the *chambriere*; when the horſe will diſcover that he received no injury from his rider, he will allow him afterwards to approach and mount with the greateſt facility.

OFFICER. I clearly perceive the means you employ, with a view to avoid the dangers, that may preſent themſelves; and you have plainly demonſtrated the impoſſibility of a young ſcholar's training a horſe.

Mr. ASTLEY. It affords me pleaſure to find that you are ſatisfied with the reaſons adduced for the PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS; the firſt being the moſt dangerous leſſons, both for the rider and the horſe, the intention of which is to bring the former animal from one extreme to the other; namely, from a ſtate of uncontrolled liberty to that of abſolute obedience, to bear the ſaddle and the man, to which all horſes make objection, in ſome way or other, according to their nature and their ſtrength.

ſtrength. No doubt, however, remains that if the horſe obey in the firſt movements, he will ever after, while his ſtrength ſhall prove ſufficient,) be equally ſubmiſſive and docile.

OFFICER. I now ſee the man motionleſs on the horſe, and am anxious to know what you intend to do with him?

Mr. ASTLEY. When I find a horſe taught to carry and obey the rider, I put him into the hands of a more perfect ſcholar, one who underſtands the uſe of the hand and heel, as well as the neceſſary *appui*; carefully commencing, by ſhortening the reins gradually that he may be accuſtomed to the former; thus he will ſoon become tractable, and obedient to the hand. This leſſon muſt be repeated until the inſtructor ſucceed in his point. But it is to be obſerved, it muſt be given with diſcretion and without incommoding him with the bridle, fixing the hand conformably to the poſition of the horſe; then according to the obedience, which he diſplays, while working round the ONE PILLAR, he is, ſooner or later, taken to the TWO, where he muſt go through his movements on the different ſides, without uſing the ſpurs, at leaſt, while he ſubmits to the bridle, and the *chambriere*, leſt he ſhould be driven reſtive.

OFFICER.

OFFICER. I perceive that this leſſon is to give a proof of the aſſertion which you have advanced, viz That the horſe is perfectly well dreſſed, when obedient to the hand and heel, and when he permits himſelf to be directed at the will of the rider; but tell me, if you pleaſe, why you uſe him firſt to the hand and not to the ſpur?

Mr. ASTLEY. I do it for the very plain reaſon, before aſſigned, that turning the horſe is attended with much difficulty, and alſo, that it is with great reluctance that he receives the bridle into the mouth; ſooner far will he bear the rider than the bridle. On this account, I begin with thoſe parts of the exerciſe, in which the inſtructor receives the moſt oppoſition: again, it is with the bridle that the horſe ſuffers himſelf to be guided, and without which he would be of little or of no ſervice to man. Hence ariſes the neceſſity of making him, in the firſt inſtance, obey the hand; for as the horſe is naturally inclined to go forward, ſtop, or turn, without grace, there are no means of compelling him to do this, in any ſort of order, without the aſſiſtance of the bridle.

OFFICER. I am ſatisfied with this information; therefore, ſir, proceed.

Mr. ASTLEY. When the horſe becomes ſufficiently tractable, the rider muſt fix himſelf ſomewhat

what ſtrongly in the ſtirrups, and induce him, by certain movements, accompanied by a good *appui*, to entertain a ſort of deſire to further his progreſs in the improvement of his paces; in the proſecution of which, the rider muſt keep his body upright, his feet firm in the ſtirrups, but rather pliable; obſerving a proper balance and command of body. If theſe, with the addition of the voice, be found inſufficient to enforce obedience, the perſon holding the *chambriere*, may threaten to puniſh him, the rider, at the ſame moment, ſtriking his boot with his whip, giving the horſe to underſtand, that he expects to be obeyed. This he ſoon learns jointly from the rider and the perſon on foot, and when he has given proofs of a little obedience (and not before) he may be led back to the ſtable, and there fed, as an encouragement for his future ſubmiſſion. As ſoon as he has received proper refreſhment, he may be worked with temperance in any of the preceding leſſons, conformably to the fancy of the rider, who is by no means to quarrel with the horſe, if it can be avoided: for, from a little correction much good may reſult, but from great oppoſition nothing is to be expected.

Officer. By this leſſon, if I underſtond rightly, the horſe finds himſelf induced, as well to obey his rider, as the perſon charged with the *chambriere*.

But

But why do you uſe the whip in preference to the heel, ſince you apply both to one and the ſame place?

Mr. ASTLEY. For the reaſon that I do not like to have recourſe to the heel, except in extreme caſes; and this, from a conviction of the impropriety of applying the ſpur; perſuaded that there can be no pleaſure in reducing the horſe to obedience by *force* alone. No grace can poſſibly be acquired by the rider, who is continually obliged to beat and ſpur his horſe; and no horſe can afford any pleaſure in the *manege*, unleſs he expreſs ſatisfaction while under tuition.—It is for this reaſon that I uſe the whip, to convey an idea of the ſpur, which the horſe obſerving, by the movement of the arm, is obliged to obey, fearful of being chaſtiſed by it; and each time that it may be neceſſary to touch him with this, prepares him to receive the ſpur.

OFFICER. When is it that you accuſtom the horſe to the ſpur; and how do you proceed in it?

Mr. ASTLEY. When I find the walk, the trot, and the gallop, alſo the *terre-à-terre* round the ONE PILLAR, readily performed by the aſſiſtance of the *appui*, &c. and in pure *cadence*, I then, and not till then, allow the rider to preſs him with the leg and ſpur, aſſiſting with his voice, and exhibiting

biting the whip.—But I obſerve, that no other horſes are working in the *manege*, leſt ſuch aid might animate them at an improper moment.—Should this new movement induce him to oppoſe reſiſtance, the application of the ſpur muſt not be repeated, but recourſe had to the whip; which done, and the horſe having recovered his wind, the following plan muſt be purſued:—The rider muſt preſs his ſides with the calves of his legs, and pinch him again, by which, in a very ſhort time, the horſe will be brought to obey the ſpur, until, at laſt, the preſſing of the legs only will anſwer the end; unleſs the beaſt be a very dull one indeed: ſhould, however, this fail, (though far from being likely), the perſon with the *chambriere* muſt quit the pillar, that the horſe, loſing ſight of him, may be invited to conform through pleaſure, inſtead of fear; when, in ſhewing him the whip, he muſt apply the ſpur gently, and indeed both, if required.

PROFESSOR. I plainly perceive the probability of ſucceeding by a ſtrict attention to this mode; but what means are proper to be employed to bring the horſe to the performance of a good *terre-à-terre*, ſince ſome heſitate to comply?

Mr. ASTLEY. The queſtion is certainly well put; there are horſes which obey the hand and the ſpur, perform well in the walk, the trot, and the gallop, and

and yet cannot execute the *terre-à-terre*, in *cadence*. The method I purſue with ſuch horſes, (thoſe I mean of a more violent turn,) is by a ſtrict attention to patience, induſtry, and a proper reſolution; without which they cannot be inſtructed in any action, in which *cadence* is required. If, as it is termed, he be diſunited, the rider will return to the leſſon at the ONE PILLAR, the better to ſupple his ſhoulders, and to fit him for the action of croſſing his legs; then to the TWO PILLARS, and there ſomewhat encourage him in the *courbette*. Here, if the horſe ſhould not obey, it muſt be aſcertained, whether his refuſal proceeds from paſſion or from ſtupidity, as he muſt be corrected accordingly: For example, when the faults ariſe from the former cauſe, he muſt be chaſtiſed for the refuſal; when, from the other, by objecting to raiſe himſelf high from the ground, or to bend his knees, (one of the fineſt graces of a horſe, while exerciſing in the *courbettes*,) he muſt receive a ſtroke from the whip on one of his hindermoſt legs. If the horſe poſſeſs the leaſt ſenſibility, he will ſoon obſerve the neceſſity of raiſing the legs, the whip being in ſight.

Admitting that theſe efforts of the horſeman ſhould prove ineffectual, and he ſhould ſtill refuſe to raiſe himſelf, a large ſtick, about ſix feet in length, muſt be procured; then, taking one of the cords of the *caveſſon*, cauſe him to leap over it obſerving

obſerving that, juſt before he is in the action of riſing, the rider muſt aſſiſt him with the voice, and apply the whip on one of his ſhoulders. By ſuch means, the horſe will certainly learn to perform a *courbette*, provided the horſeman be careful to aid and careſs him, at all times, when obedient: for horſes, I repeat, can only be inſtructed by careſſing them with the voice, or hand, or by giving them ſomething to eat, as herbs, fruits, &c. And, when in the wrong, every effort muſt be made to puniſh them with the voice, the whip, and the ſpur, but with moderation. Every fault muſt have its particular puniſhment, which muſt NOT be altered. The horſeman will, nevertheleſs, be ſparing of his blows, and prodigal of his careſſes; for, as I have already ſtated, the horſe is always to be brought to his duty by gentle, but NEVER by rough means.

OFFICER. To poſſeſs the method which you do, of riſing him before, as the means of enabling him to perform well a *courbette*, it is requiſite that the inſtructor ſhould narrowly inſpect his movements, as well for the ſafety of the rider, as for that of the horſe; governing himſelf, in the choice of the modes he may employ, by the ability of the animal under his tuition.

Mr. ASTLEY. Although one good *courbette* be no very great recommendation, the horſe that can perform

perform one *well*, may be conſidered as far advanced in this leſſon, for when he can execute this, he will ſoon be enabled to arrive at the ſecond and third; of which, being maſter, he will certainly increaſe the number, ſo long, at leaſt, as the wind ſhall laſt: but here diſcretion is required on the part of the inſtructor. A good *courbette* is underſtood to be that which is performed freely, aſſiſted only by the voice, and that only when found expedient.*

If a horſe refuſe to riſe himſelf forward, and that refuſal be attended with the riſk of throwing himſelf down, it is conſidered as an imprudent act, on the part of the inſtructor, to oppoſe it by a continuation of the like means: on the contrary, ſuch a horſe ſhould be conveyed to the TWO PILLARS, and there employed in acquiring a better *cadence*, in order to induce him to forget the circumſtance of his refuſal; when, if he reſiſt the ſpur, or become reſtive, it is not conſidered adviſable to riſe him; unleſs he ſhould carry himſelf too near the ground, and, even then, he muſt not be foreſhortened, under the idea of rendering him light, until he be perfect in the action of going forward, and truly obedient in the above leſſons.

The wiſe and prudent horſeman will weigh every circumſtance, among the multiplicity, which oc-

* See the engraving at the end of the book.

cur

cur in the courſe of the exerciſe, the better to prevent accidents, and particularly the injury, to which the legs and reins of the horſe are the moſt liable; he endeavours alſo to exerciſe and divert his mind, and aſſiſt his memory, in whatever manner appears beſt calculated to inſure ſucceſs; and too much application and art cannot be employed.

OFFICER. I conceive that man requires much diligence and attention to complete him in this ſcience. Explain, if you pleaſe, what you expect farther of the horſe after he has learned to perform three or four good *courbettes?*

Mr. ASTLEY. When the horſe freely ſubmits to the above leſſons, and is able to perform three or four good *courbettes*, between the TWO PILLARS, without ſuſtaining himſelf by the cords of the *caveſſon*, I remove them to a given diſtance, that he may become obedient to the hand; and when I find that he takes a firm poſition on the reins, and not on the *caveſſon*, I throw him on his haunches on one ſide, touching him with the ſpur, ſometimes with the left, at others with the right; then repeating the leſſons in the *courbettes*, two or three times, at diſcretion, I invite him, by careſſes, to go to the other ſide, aided by the application of the heels, ſupported by the hand, and

ſecured

ſecured by the whip, leſt he ſhould not riſe himſelf ſufficiently either before or behind.

OFFICER. But if, in ſuch leſſons, he ſhould refuſe compliance, what is to be done?

Mr. ASTLEY. If he refuſe to obey, the cauſe muſt be aſcertained; for if he be light and vigorous, and go forward leaping, inſtead of performing *courbettes*, but, is nevertheleſs, eaſy in his movements; if, I repeat, the horſe only offer this defence, when the rider is about to riſe him, he muſt not be checked, but indulged and perfected in the *cadence*, which he thus adopts, whether *croupade*, *balotade*, or *cabriole*; for be it remarked, that the horſe is naturally endowed with airs; and it is held adviſeable not to oppoſe thoſe movements in which he moſtly excels, and to which he appears principally inclined: for this reaſon, the horſe ſhould not be chaſtiſed for having recourſe to other airs, whether willingly, or by way of defence. Certain alſo it is, that when a horſe has not ſufficient force to continue in *croupades*, *balotades*, or *cabrioles*, he will, naturally, and eaſily return to *courbettes*, and he who would attempt to act otherwiſe, by oppoſing the horſe, when vigorous and full of fire, may occaſion a thouſand accidents to both.

OFFICER.

OFFICER. I thank you for this explanation; but, if you pleaſe, we will return to the horſe between the TWO PILLARS, now able to make four or five *courbettes* in one place. When thus inſtructed, I wiſh to know, what next you require of him; for it ſeems that the horſe, ſo far perfected, has regularly gone through the leſſons which you have deſcribed; commencing, continuing, and ending at the ONE PILLAR, and between the TWO.

Mr. ASTLEY. You are perfectly right.—I have found, by the adoption of theſe means, that the horſe is brought to comply in all that may be required of him, without tormenting the body, legs, or feet, the mind being the object to which I principally direct my attention; for while, in his exerciſe round the ONE PILLAR, the horſe takes a firm poſition on his haunches, and obeys the ſpur, in like manner between the TWO PILLARS, he will go better in *cadence*. I continue and conclude generally between the TWO PILLARS. For my own part, I conceive that the moſt excellent parts of the leſſon are, to fix the head of the horſe lofty, ſo as to make him obedient to the hand, to give him breath in the *courbettes*, which is done, by not permitting him to draw from the *caveſſon*. In this leſſon, I faſten him between the TWO PILLARS, with the halter in his mouth, inſtead of a bridle, and there work him without a ſaddle; for he will

chaſtiſe himſelf, in caſe he ſhould riſe his head too high, or lean too much, or not enough on the ſide; thus he finds it neceſſary to work on his haunches, in a juſt poſition, fearful of the *chambriere*, ſhewn to him from behind, and with which he may be touched ſlightly, if judged expedient.—I cauſe him to riſe himſelf before, driving him forward, which is half *terre-à terre* and half *courbette*, thereby preparing him for the *volte*.

OFFICER. It appears that you have employed every poſſible means to oblige the horſe to riſe himſelf forward for the making *courbettes*; and it is obſerved, that the higheſt are the moſt handſome: at preſent you inſtruct him in half *courbettes*, and half *terre-à terre*; but are you not apprehenſive that, by ſo doing, the horſe will acquire a bad habit?

Mr. ASTLEY. Far from giving the horſe a bad habit, it enables him to perform whole *courbettes* with greater facility, for, by this leſſon, properly uſed, he is made firm on his haunches, pure in his *cadence*, and enabled to receive, freely, the AIDS of the hand, of the ſpur, and of the whip. The leſſons for the inſtruction of half *courbettes*, and half *terre à terre*, are highly requiſite at times: namely, when a horſe is wanting in reſolution, faultering in his whole *courbettes*, if not obedient to the

AIDS.

AIDS. I never met with a horſe, however perfect he might be, that received an injury from its application: a circumſtance that warrants me in its adoption, particularly in the caſes before ſtated. When the leaſt aſſiſtance of the hand cauſes him to obey, (for it is known that a ſteady hand inclines the horſe alſo to be ſteady), he may eaſily be brought to exerciſe in the *courbettes* or *cabrioles* and from theſe to the good *voltes:* and I continue to work him round the PILLAR, until I am ſatisfied of his ability in this performance, in pure *cadence*, and of his attention to the AIDS of the heels.

OFFICER. What am I to underſtand by the term obedient to the heel?

Mr. ASTLEY. The horſe is obedient to the heel, when, by preſſing with both, he flies forward, or by touching with one he turns to that ſide on which it is the intention of the rider to direct him; or, when in other reſpects diſobedient, he allows himſelf to be brought to a due ſenſe of his duty, by piching him with one or both of the ſpurs.

OFFICER. I now perfectly comprehend you; but what method do you purſue to make the horſe ſenſible and obedient to the ſpur?

Mr. ASTLEY. Many horſes there are that pay no attention to the ſpur, and with ſuch I uſe other means. I ſhall omit, at preſent, treating of them, but return to horſes more ſenſible to the touch of the heel; by commencing with its application, being well aſſured of its perfection in the *courbette*. I generally make the horſe begin this leſſon at the ONE PILLAR, and there, putting him into the *voltes*, touch him with one of the heels once or twice only; if he allow this, quick careſſes, on the part of the rider, ſhould neceſſarily follow, if not the AID muſt be withheld. Obſerving that the horſe does not kindly admit of being pinched, I tie him between the TWO PILLARS, ſhortening the cords; when, on riſing him, I cauſe him to be preſſed very ſoftly; if he ſhould alter his meaſure, he muſt be ſtruck on the CROUP with the whip, at the time of AIDING him.—This is practiſed to give the rider an opportunity of continuing the preſſure, by which the horſe is taught to remark, that he is required to anſwer to the AID of the heel, as well as to the whip: to effect this, however, the rider and the perſon with the *chambriere*, muſt act in concert, and the horſe is ſoon induced to underſtand and obey.

OFFICER. But provided the horſe be ſo impatient, or ſenſible, as not to admit of the touch of the heels, in the manner before deſcribed, but becomes

becomes furious, even to a degree of madneſs, is it adviſable to make him ſuffer? From your former obſervation, "that horſes ſhould not be beaten," I am induced to put this queſtion; as alſo, what you mean by the term pinching?

Mr. ASTLEY. To pinch the horſe, while in the action of working in the *courbettes*, or, indeed, in any other movement, is to preſs gently its ſides with both ſpurs, or with one only, as neceſſity may require; ſo that, being accuſtomed to this AID, he may riſe himſelf behind, little or much, according to the force applied by the horſeman; a circumſtance which requires particular care and attention; for, without a complete acquaintance with this part of the ſcience, the horſe cannot acquire any true grace.

The furious horſe, that will not bear the ſpur, I faſten to the PILLAR, ſhortening the cords; I then fix two balls, (ſuch as boys uſe at play) to the rowels, and work the horſe gently to the ſide, cauſing him to feel the balls, by which he underſtands that the injury is not great. The next leſſon is given between the TWO PILLARS, when the heels are applied with the ſpur, and without exerciſing it, but, at ſuch times, I approach the horſe, who ſoon ſubmits to the ſpur, armed as before ſtated, with two balls. Theſe balls, it may

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here be remarked, may be dispensed with, by omitting the spurs intirely, and using the heels; but the preference is certainly to be given to the former mode; the reason of which is, that the heel, not being sufficiently long, cannot touch the belly without pressing too much with the calf of the leg at the same moment. When the horse admits the touch with the balls, without shewing an inclination to opposition, I use spurs, that do not prick, and continue the same lessons until, at last, I have recourse to the real ones, (horizontal rowel spurs I have ever given the preference to,) using them gently, or with such force as may be required. Hence you may infer that all horses are rendered obedient to the spur.

If a horseman, surrounded with dangers in the field of war, cannot direct and cause his horse to obey him, but, on the contrary, that he become restive, a valuable life is lost! At such a time, the animal that is well trained will not feel himself insulted, or be induced to rebel, although the rider may press an additional exertion of his powers; and hence arises the necessity of bringing a horse to obey, AT ALL TIMES, both the hand and the spur.

OFFICER. Your ideas agree with mine:—I now see the point distinctly, and how you contrive by

by ſlow degrees (which you prefer) to inſtruct the horſe. I am anxious to hear the remainder of your diſcourſe, particularly how you treat him when trained in the manner before related.

Mr. ASTLEY. After having ſucceeded, by the leſſons before ſtated, I commence round the ONE PILLAR, and with the *voltes*, the better to complete him in the obedience of the hand; then tying him between the TWO with the cords a little longer, I make him work gently to the ſides.

As the horſe becomes acquainted with this alteration of movement, I oblige him, if poſſible, to return to that to which he appears moſt inclined. This he learns in a few days, from the circumſtance of being worked to the left and right.

OFFICER. Why are you deſirous that your horſe ſhould know how to work to the ſide, and that he ſhould change from one to the other by the application of the ſpur?

Mr. ASTLEY. Becauſe the horſe that cannot work ſideways, cannot perform good *voltes*; but if, in going into the *voltes*, he ſhould enlarge himſelf too much, the ſpur on the other ſide will correct him; and if, working to the right, he ſhould incline obliquely to either ſide, the ſpur will adjuſt his

his poſition :—this is the chief reaſon why I exerciſe the horſe ſideways; others I could aſſign, were they requiſite or deſired.

Sometimes I take a horſe from the TWO PILLARS to the ONE, and there work him, to divert his attention, which having been previouſly accuſtomed to, he will appear to take much delight in; and that may be eaſily diſcovered by obſerving the juſt poſition of his head turned againſt the pillar, and his ready obedience to the ſpur when applied for the purpoſe of foreſhortening him.

OFFICER. What advantage has this leſſon over that between the TWO PILLARS, ſince it only inſtructs the horſe to work to the ſides?

Mr. ASTLEY. I diſcover two—firſt, that the horſe, not being made faſt on both ſides, has little apprehenſion of receiving any check at the ONE PILLAR; conſequently, independent of his obedience to the hand, he permits himſelf to be conducted with the head againſt it. Secondly, that he becomes likewiſe tractable to the ſpurs, and particularly obedient to the perſon holding the *chambriere*; convincing proofs that the horſe is far advanced in his education.

OFFICER. I believe you have aſſerted, there are horſes ſo void of ſenſibility, that they are not irritated

irritated by the ſpur; with ſuch, other treatment is neceſſary: and I wiſh to be informed what method, in ſuch caſes, you purſue?

Mr. ASTLEY. There are horſes ſo ſtupid and timid, ſo weak in their reins, feet, and legs, as only to be capable of travelling thirty miles in a day; ſuch are alone ſuited to the cart, and neceſſarily rejected in the *manege*: but there are others, of tolerable good ſtrength, with handſome feet and legs, but wanting in ſpirit; much art and cunning are therefore requiſite in rouſing them: when I meet with horſes of this kind I uſe them tenderly in the firſt inſtance; then (if in good health and condition) I place them in the ſtable into which no light can enter, and there let them remain two or three weeks, taking eſpecial care that they have plenty of food: IF THIS ANIMATE THEM, MY END IS ANSWERED.—Should this remedy, however, fail, it is out of the power of man to do any thing farther with ſuch a horſe!

PROFESSOR. From what you have heard, it is clear that Mr. Aſtley's method is the moſt certain, conciſe, profitable, and the leaſt dangerous, of any extant. For my part, I can aſſert that, as far as I have travelled, and the many horſes I have ſeen, I never met with any ſo well dreſſed as in the Amphitheatre of Arts, Weſtminſter-Bridge.—I can

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go farther, and declare, that I never knew him to inſtruct any man (properly qualified for the ſcience of equeſtrian public amuſement) who did not make a wonderful progreſs under his tuition; and that more men and horſes have been inſtructed by him than by any other profeſſor in the kingdom.—I have not forgotten the minuet danced by two of his horſes,) one mounted by his ſon, and the other by himſelf;)—it was the *ne plus ultra* of the *manege*, in ſhort, the admiration of every profeſſor.

OFFICER. Exactly ſo:—but as Mr. Aſtley has not ſpoken much on this head, I will put the queſtion; perhaps it may aſſiſt me in diſcovering ſomething more of the *appui*, the aids, the ſtop, &c. the knowledge of which I am very deſirous to obtain from him.—Mr. Aſtley, will you then have the goodneſs to explain the ground work of your celebrated minuet, danced by two horſes?

Mr. ASTLEY. Willingly:—In the firſt place, my horſes were educated to *piafe* loftily, with grace, with elegance, and with agility, (Haydn's minuet regulated the action of the *piafe* during the ſalute) as alſo the *terre-à-terre*, which brought us to oppoſite corners.—— The action of the *demi-voltes*, to approach each other for the purpoſe of giving our hands foreſhortened our horſes to great

great animation by a corresponding *appui* and aid of the leg; in the action of the *piafe* we came nearer each other, head and croup, continuing the *piafe* on our centre, an intire round, prior to which we gave our hands, and then let them gracefully defcend to their original poſition: both horſes, at this inſtant, being put in the action of the *terre-à-terre*, gained a given ground from the centre; my ſon's horſe made a *demi-volte*, my own a *pirouette*; this brought us *vis-à-vis*, and after a ſhort ſtop or pauſe (ſtrictly in *cadence*), each horſe paſſed in the action of *terre-à-terre*, head to head, deſcribing the exact figure of the minuet: my ſon, having but little ground to go, immediately paſſaged in his ſtation; myſelf, being at the oppoſite corner, at a much greater diſtance, obtained ſuch ground, by the action of *terre-à-terre*, at one and the ſame time.

Here both our horſes fronted the ſpectators, and (preciſely on the ſame ground we occupied at the commencement of the minuet) each, by a graceful *appui* and corresponding *aids*, foreſhortened and threw himſelf well upon his haunches (nearly to a balance), we encouraging them into a brilliant and lofty *piafe*.—At the laſt part of Haydn's minuet we both uncovered; my ſon, being on my left, cauſed his horſe to *piafe* to the right, myſelf *piafing* to the left, which brought us

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head to head at a given diſtance. After a *cadence* with a ſtop, we each made a *piaſe* back to the ſame ground, my ſon to the left and myſelf to the right, and, continuing the *piaſe*, concluded the minuet with the muſic: after which, each of us preſſed his horſe's ſide with ſharp horizontal ſpurs, animated him to the higheſt action of the *piaſe* in quick time, to a ſprightly air, which concluded the performance; our horſes retrogading out of the Amphitheatre by oppoſite doors, croup foremoſt, amidſt the higheſt applauſe of the ſpectators.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Serious Advice to LADIES *and* GENTLEMEN, *teaching them the moſt ſafe, approved, and graceful Seat; by which they may attain the greateſt Perfection in Riding, with Eaſe and Pleaſure to themſelves and Horſes: with a Deſcription of the Side-Saddle.*

To complete ladies, and indeed gentlemen, in the management of a horſe, I would deſire they ſhould firſt attain a juſt and adequate idea and knowledge of the bridle-hand; and even then I would only deſire to place them on horſes perfectly obedient and of eaſy action.—I never allow a learner to mount a horſe, which I have not previouſly experienced to be the moſt ſafe, gentle, and tractable; it is placing them indiſcriminately on horſes, not ſufficiently docile, which frequently terrifies young ladies ſo much, as to prevent their having that confidence and pliability of body, which is ſo indiſpenſably neceſſary for them to attend to

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and adopt.—How, in effect, is it poſſible for a man, under an impreſſion of fear, to ſit with that freedom and confidence, which conduce ſo much to his ſafety and to the gracefulneſs of his ſeat? But if he have a horſe which he is certain poſſeſſes no vicious diſpoſition, he is then free from any terror; his form and action are unembarraſſed, and his mind is perfectly at liberty to adapt himſelf and his actions to the various movements of the horſe.

With regard to teaching a lady to attain a ſafe, eaſy, and graceful ſeat, it is firſt proper to give ſome inſtructions reſpecting the ſide ſaddle; for if this be not judiciouſly made, it will be impoſſible for the female learner to perfect herſelf in this neceſſary part of the art.

Firſt, I condemn the uſe of all cantlets to ſide-ſaddles.

Cantlets are ridges which are at the back part of the ſaddle, and were invented as a means, though very injudiciouſly imagined, of aſſiſting ladies to ſit with more ſafety than it was ſuppoſed they poſſibly could without them. Their inconvenience is, that when ladies are ſeated, they are frequently, by the motion of the horſe, thrown upon the ridge itſelf. This being uneaſy, to avoid it, the rider ſits ſo forward, as to loſe the purchaſe which the right HAM ſhould have of the ſhort head

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or pomel part of the ſaddle.—Her ſeat is, thereby rendered unfixed, and ſhe is out of that part of her ſituation, which would give her the neceſſary equilibrium, agreeable equality, and requiſite attention to the horſe's motion.—By this ſhe not only rides uneaſy, but is in danger of being thrown; for it is impoſſible to ſit with eaſe and in ſafety, unleſs your ſeat be on that part of the horſe's back, which gives the proper poiſe between the motion of his fore and hind legs. The ſame eaſe of motion is obtained from ſitting in a proper medium on the back of the horſe, as there is in placing yourſelf midway between the head and ſtern of a veſſel under ſail; for in both you will find yourſelf leſs ſenſible of their reſpective motions.

Another fault of the preſent ſide-ſaddle is its convex form. This rotundity is liable to occaſion the rider's ſliding off, either on the one ſide or the other, and to make the ſeat very unpleaſant, while it galls and wrings the horſe at the ſame time: could he ſpeak, the oppreſſed animal, I am certain, would perſuade you to eaſe the preſſure by ſitting more in the centre.

To deſcribe in what manner I ſhould recommend a ſide-ſaddle to be formed in this particular, I muſt quote the complaints I have heard of new chairs: A ſingular lady, whom I inſtructed in riding, uſed to ſay, "New chairs were the moſt uncomfortable furniture

furniture in a houſe; for when a perſon wiſhed to reſt on them, they always gave more pain than refreſhment, their convexity was ſo exceedingly troubleſome, and therefore ſhe always gave her ſervants the *firſt feats* in her houſe, until they had preſſed them into a concavity; and ſhe was convinced that my advice, reſpecting ſide-ſaddles, in this particular, was equally proper, and perfectly agreeable to her idea of chairs:" for, when they are thus hollow in the ſeat, the rider ſits certainly with more eaſe and ſafety than when they are convex, and, by enabling the rider to keep her centre, ſhe attains her juſt equilibrium.

It may be thought by many rather preſumptuous in a horſeman to treſpaſs thus on the province of the ſaddler; but this accuſation will be found unjuſt, when it is conſidered that a horſeman *only*, who has, from the nature of his avocation, experience of the different effects of ſaddles, both with reſpect to the rider and to the horſe, is capable of properly deciding upon this point.—Saddlers cannot be competent judges of their particular utility or diſadvantage; their time being engaged in learning to make them, to appearance, worth the attention of the purchaſer, from the goodneſs of the materials, and the elegance of the form and the workmanſhip;—not at all conſidering the eaſe and convenience of the rider, nor the preſervation of the horſe from pain and injury.

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Thus it is that I have ſeen, in the courſe of my practice and experience, that the moſt coſtly ſaddles have been oft times the worſt, both for the horſe and the rider. A ſhoemaker can make a ſhoe, but it is only the wearer who can tell you where it pinches! this is an old adage—than which nothing can more illuſtrate what I would here enforce. I wiſh, at the ſame time, not to be underſtood to mean this as an illiberal reflection, or aimed againſt all ſaddlers and tree-makers; on the contrary, there are many who are excellent in their profeſſion.

Before I diſmiſs this ſubject, I would adviſe, that the pommel, ſeat, and pannel, be all ſtuffed with horſe-hair: the advantages of this ſort of ſtuffing, are, firſt, it imbibes not the ſweat of the horſe as the flock does; and, conſequently, it is always ſoft and free from thoſe clottings, which too frequently gall the horſe's back, and cauſe him to travel in great pain; his carriage is thus rendered very unpleaſant to the rider. The next convenience is, that from the ſoftneſs and elaſticity of the horſe-hair, whatever is ſtuffed with it exactly conforms itſelf to the ſurface it is meant to bear, preſs, or cover; and another conveniency is, the durability of this ſpecies of ſtuffing; for it requires only to be taken out and beaten, and you will find it is good, after ſeven years wear, as it was when it was firſt uſed. With reſpect to ſaddles for ladies having cantlets, I muſt here again condemn them.

In the army they have their uſe, by enabling the ſoldier to fix and keep his cloak-bag more ſafe and ſteady, than he would otherwiſe have the power to do; beſides, as men take up ſo much leſs room in the ſeat than women, the inconvenience which the female rider ſuffers from the cantlet, they do not experience; for the nature of a lady's ſitting on horſeback, is ſuch, as to require more room than can be left in the ſpace between the ſhort head, or pommel, and the cantlet.

Preſuming this hint is too obvious to require any farther explanation, I will not trouble my readers with any thing more on this ſubject.

As a general rule for what the length of ſide-ſaddles ſhould be in proportion to ladies of different heights, I offer this obſervation; that a young lady of five feet high, ſhould have her ſaddle-tree as long as ſeventeen inches;—one of five feet two, eighteen inches;—of five feet four, nineteen inches;—of five feet ſix, nineteen and a half inches;—of five feet eight, twenty inches; of five feet ten, twenty and a half inches; and of ſix feet, twenty-one inches,

With regard to ſtirrups, I pretend to give no inſtructions, as they are of no great conſequence in their difference of bar, clog, or ſlipper, provided they fit the ladies' foot eaſily: and as to their faſhion,

ſhion, that is to be directed entirely by the taſte of the rider. But were I to recommend any one in preference, it would be the ſlipper-ſtirrup, from the ſafety ariſing in conſequence of the impoſſibility of a lady's foot going through it, by which ſhe might be dragged in caſe of a fall, along the road. This is an accident, which has too fatally attended men in their riding, and is, therefore, more particularly to be guarded againſt when a lady takes this exerciſe.

THE SEAT OF THE LADY.

As ſoon as ſhe is on the horſe, ſhe ſhould immediately place herſelf in ſuch a manner, as to look directly between his ears. She ſhould not ſit with her elbows to the head and tail; if ſhe does, ſhe will be liable to fall backwards or forwards, according to the ſide of the horſe on which ſhe moſt preponderates.

Her right hand ſhould hold the whip in an eaſy graceful manner, with the laſh ſlanting and bearing gently on the flanks of the horſe. In the left hand ſhe ſhould hold the bridle, with her wriſt turned ſo that her thumb do point acroſs the horſe; and this hand, which I call the bridle-hand, ſhould be equi-diſtant from her body and the pommel.

Her ſeat ſhould be ſuch, as not to preſs particularly on the ſhoulder, nor back parts of the horſe; if ſhe preſs forward, ſhe may cauſe the horſe to fall under her; for nothing will occaſion a horſe ſo ſoon to fall, as his ſhoulders being embarraſſed by either the ſaddle being too forward, or the rider ſitting in this awkward, uneaſy, and dangerous poſition. The body ſhould be eaſy and ſupple, otherwiſe ſhe can never conform herſelf to the motions of the horſe.

Ladies and gentlemen are too apt to forget the pliability of body; ſuch inattention deſtroys their gracefulneſs of attitude, renders them a great burthen to their horſes, and prevents their attaining that eaſe and command, which ſhould always partake of the horſe's motion in all his different paces. It is ſuperfluous to inform my readers, that eaſe of action on horſeback diſtinguiſhes both the lady and the gentleman; it becomes, therefore, unneceſſary to recommend its adoption any farther.

The next obſervation I have to make, reſpecting a lady's poſition on horſeback, is, that her body ſhould not incline towards either ſide, forward or backward; but if there is to be a tendency to either, I would recommend it to be back; this will draw in the ſhoulders, and give the body an appearance of confidence, which ſhould always characterize every rider; it will likewiſe prevent

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her being liable to preſs too forward, ſo as to loſe the hold or purchaſe ſhe ſhould always have with her HAM, of the ſhort head, or pommel of the ſaddle; and alſo her preſſing with her weight too much on the ſhoulders of the horſe.

The direction of the bridle ſhould be governed by paſſing the hand acroſs the body, when you want to turn to the right, and the contrary way when you would turn the horſe to the left. You ſhould practiſe turning him to the former, more than to the latter, in order to attain a familiarity in what you will find the moſt difficult of the two directions: for every horſe is more eaſily turned to the left, than to the right, from their always receiving their food on the left ſide, and their rider being obliged to paſs the bridle-hand acroſs the neck to turn him to the right. In pulling the bridle, if the lady pull more, than at the rate of a pound weight, ſhe may be ſaid to carry her horſe, and not the horſe her.

THE LENGTH OF THE STIRRUP.

Having given the above directions, reſpecting the poſition of the body on the ſide-ſaddle, it is neceſſary to ſay a few words on what ſhould be the length of the ſtirrup. I ſhould not recommend

mend it to be ſhort; if it be, it will force the lady too much towards the off ſide; and ſhould it be too long, ſhe will find herſelf too much on the near ſide: Either of theſe will deſtroy that equilibrium, which I can never too much enforce.—But of the two faults, I would rather the ſtirrups ſhould be too long than too ſhort; for the rider is ſo far tending more towards the left than the right ſide. The poſition of the leg, and that of foot in the ſtirrup, ſhould be as eaſy as poſſible; if it be forced out in an awkward manner, the lady will find her whole form rendered ungraceful, and the leg itſelf, if not cramped from the extreme tenſion of the muſcles, will be greatly pained and fatigued.—But whilſt I thus condemn its being extended ſo far from the horſe's ſide, I would not deſire it ſhould preſs the horſe; it ſhould preſerve that eaſy poſition which it would have, were the lady to ſit upright in her chair, without preſſing the legs of it, or extending her leg in a ſlanting manner from it: Nor let the rider too much ſupport herſelf by the ſtirrup; for this will only increaſe the fatigue of her riding, in conſequence of her weight depending more on her feet and legs preſſing on the ſtirrup, than on the horſe, by which ſhe ſhould alone be carried. In avoiding this error, however, care ſhould be taken not to neglect totally that moderate ſupport, which the ſtirrup is meant to afford the body. The foot ſhould preſs the ſtirrup juſt enough to prevent the whole weight of the body from

from lying in too heavy and ſluggiſh a manner on the horſe, and to have its aſſiſtance, whenever the body requires its ſupport, in caſe of a ſudden removal from its equilibrium, ſo as to re inſtate itſelf in its loſt ſeat.

THE DRESS OF THE LADIES.

Before I end this ſubject, I have one caution to give reſpecting the ladies' dreſs.—This is relative to the hair and hat being in ſuch a ſtate, as not to be liable either of them to be ſo materially diſturbed by the motion of the wind or the horſe, as to engage too much attention This is an inconvenience which may be attended with very fatal conſequences. A lady, who is embarraſſed by the falling down of her hair, and the flapping of her hat, may loſe ſo much her proper ſeat and the guidance of her horſe, as either to be in danger of falling, or being expoſed to meet carriages, which ſhe is not prepared to avoid in time, to prevent herſelf and her horſe from being hurt from ſuch a *rencontre*.

To remedy this, I moſt reſpectfully recommend to all ladies, who ride, to have their hair very firmly and cloſely dreſſed, and their hats pinned, ſo as to prevent their being moved by the motion of

of the wind or the horſe, or the brims flapping over their eyes; for either of theſe not only greatly embarraſs the rider, but prevents her ſeeing how to guide her horſe, as obſerved above, from carriages and horſes which may be paſſing on the road.

To conclude this chapter, I would finally adviſe every lady to be particularly cautious in riding ſuch horſes, which they are not certain have carried ladies before. Such are very apt to be frightened at the flapping of the coats of a lady's dreſs againſt their ſides; and very frequently have been known to run away with a lady the inſtant ſhe has been mounted. To avoid this danger, let a groom put on a petticoat, and firſt ride on a ſide-ſaddle as a lady does; if the horſe be ſteady, docile, and obedient, without ſhewing any ſigns of fear, the lady herſelf may then venture to ride him with ſafety.

CHAP. IV.

Neceſſary Precautions in purchaſing a Horſe.

APPROACH the ſtable very quietly, and by no means diſturb the horſe, that you may find out his imperfections; ſuffer no one to go near him, until you have thoroughly obſerved his poſition, while ſtanding quietly in the ſtable: horſes with tender feet, or otherwiſe lame, generally favour themſelves in the part affected, while in this ſtate.

Being thoroughly ſatisfied with his appearance, order him out; but ſuffer no whip or ſpur to be applied to him, as correction, if he be a little lame or tender-footed, will make him forget it for a moment. Let him be taken to a convenient place, between light and dark, that you may thoroughly examine his eyes; for all eyes, in the ſun, appear much better than they really are, and it

it requires much ſkill to diſcover their degree of goodneſs.

Two things are to be particularly conſidered in the eye: firſt, the cryſtal; ſecondly, the bottom, or ground of the eye.

Let your obſervation be rather oblique: if the eye appear good, not ſunk in the head, and the ſight free from ſpots, they are favourable ſigns; for if you expect to be carried ſafe, the eyes, as well as the legs, ſhould be ſtrictly attended to.

His age is known by his teeth: horſes for the road or field ſhould not be under five years old; though, in fact, the country-dealers, by cutting the gums, make them appear older than they really are; a practice which ought to be entirely aboliſhed.

I have obſerved horſes at eight and nine years old with a black ſpeck in their teeth, much reſembling the true mark, but then it was not hollow; for, at that age, the lower teeth are all even, when the upper are abſolutely not ſo until the horſe is twelve years old, (cribbiters excepted); at thirteen the horſe's upper and lower teeth appear nearly all even; at fourteen the teeth overhang, and get long: if any gentleman ſhould diſpute the fact, let him carefully examine horſes at various

various ages, and he will find the above to be indiſputable aſſertions.

View his withers, back, and CROUP; obſerve that his fore legs be not inclined to bend forward, and that he have no ſcars on the knees, or ſix inches below or above; the hair on the above place ſhould lie equally as ſleek, as on any part of the body; if otherwiſe, you may expect he has tumbled down; then, at all events, reject him.

The next point that comes under conſideration, is, the walk, the trot, and gallop, in perfect *cadence* (being natural paces). If any pavement is near, let him be mounted and ridden on it; even then ſuffer him not to be ſpurred, whipped, nor otherwiſe ill treated. Obſerve that the walk be bold, that he neither cuts nor interfere before nor behind: ſcars on the inſide of the legs, denote a horſe not going well on them; but I muſt frankly confeſs, that the farrier is as often to blame as the horſe.

His trot ſhould be free, ſteady, and performed with great agility; two legs up in the air, and two down on the ground: if he appear found in the trot, and pleaſe you in his different actions, order him to gallop.—Horſes, galloping ſtraight forward, may lead with the right or left leg before; but then the hind leg of the ſame ſide muſt immediately

diately follow, otherwiſe they gallop diſunited; a certain ſign of not being properly inſtructed.—Horſes, broken by able maſters, commonly gallop with their right leg foremoſt, eſpecially when turning a corner to the right hand; and if they turn to the left, will immediately change and take the left leg.

Being ſatisfied with the walk, trot, and gallop, and that the horſe is ſound and temperate in all his actions, as alſo thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand, I pronounce him valuable; for I have found by experience, that a horſe well broken makes a man a tolerable good horſeman, and nothing, that I know of, contributes ſo much to the attaining this deſirable end, as the prudent and ſteady action of the rider.

CHAP. V.

Of the Bridle, Saddle, and Stirrups.

WE come now properly to equip the horſe; and, indeed, many gentlemen have various ways in doing this.—I recommend the ſnaffle for hunting; and, in bitting a horſe, to give him ſuch a bit as may readily gain his acquieſcence in the actions you may require of him; and if your horſe has been properly bitted, care ſhould be taken that he is not ſpoiled by bad management.—Nothing ſhould be more attended to than bitting a horſe; every movement of the bridle with the bit-rein, ſhould be light and eaſy; if the rider has not a tolerable command of the body, he ſhould never attempt much with the bit-rein, as well as ſome knowledge of the *eppui*. Changing bits makes a horſe diſobedient; and I have obſerved ſeveral accidents proceeding from a ſpirited horſe not being properly curbed: the moſt quiet horſe may bring his rider into great danger, ſhould the curb hurt him; if, in fixing the curb, you turn the chain

to

to the right, the links will unfold properly, put on the chain to range rather loose, that the bit may have liberty to move in the horse's mouth; and before you attempt to ride your horse in a new bit, let it be put in his mouth three or four mornings, previous to your mounting him, and just let the bit-rein be brought up, that the horse may feel the effect of the curb.

The saddle should fit the horse with great ease, and be placed on his back in such a manner as not in the least to press on one part more than on another.*

The stirrups should be of an equal length; nothing is so bad as to see a gentleman ride with unequal stirrups, nor with such can a proper seat be obtained in time of danger. I recommend the stirrup-irons to be jagged, in the manner of a baker's rasp, which will greatly assist the rider in wet or frosty weather, as well in mounting as dismounting, in flying or standing leaps, and, in short upon all occasions.

* Most saddlers, as I have already observed, consider nothing more than the appearance of a saddle: those which I use have little or no cantlet: such are best calculated to enable the indifferent rider to keep his body back, and maintain his seat with equal proportion of weight on each quarter of the horse.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

ASTLEY'S *Syſtem of training Horſes to Leap.*

IN order to exerciſe the horſe in leaping with your weight, I would recommend you to uſe a bag, filled with ſand, weighing from four to eight ſtone, increaſing every morning half a ſtone, till it arrives at your own weight. Place this acroſs his back, and faſten it; then begin to accuſtom him to leap about a foot high; continuing to increaſe the height of the leap in proportion to the additional weight on his back every morning, until he has learned to clear the height of five feet and a half, with ſuch a weight as you may judge proper.—Obſerve to exerciſe him in this manner, until be can effect this leap with great eaſe and agility.

The horſe being thoroughly enabled to leap the above-mentioned height by practiſing him at the bar, let him next be exerciſed to leap over a ditch; for I have ſeen many good hunters leap a bar or hedge,

hedge, with great agility and readineſs, that were ſhy, awkward, and embarraſſed, when required to go over a ditch. In order, therefore, to render BOTH eaſy and familiar to him, he ſhould be exerciſed equally at the bar and ditch; obſerving to feed him with a little corn, &c. by way of reward, as recommended in the preceding diſcourſe.

Your horſe being properly trained to leap with an equivalent weight to your own, namely, the ſand-bag of ſuch, or more weight, you may then diſcontinue the bag and mount him yourſelf; for the ſand-bag is only uſed as a ſubſtitute for the rider, in order to prevent accidents. Having mounted him, leap him over the bar, obſerving to begin with SMALL HEIGHTS, not only for your own ſecurity, but for your improvement. Having acquired a competent knowledge for taking a ſtanding or flying leap over a bar, gate, or hedge, next exerciſe him over a ditch, as you did before with the ſand-bag.

In this exerciſe, I have ſeen many an excellent horſe ſpoiled, from the eager and imprudent manner of forcing him over heights he had refuſed. Should he decline to leap any deſired height, do not chaſtiſe him, but accommodate the bar to his ability and inclination, by placing it lower.

Having

Having leaped him over the height, adapted to his preſent temper, and given him a little corn in a ſieve, taking off the burthen, you may then, by raiſing the bar from hole to hole, inſenſibly train him to leap the height, which he before refuſed, and you deſired. By this means, you preſerve the temper of the horſe—reward his exerciſe by ſuch an indulgence, and prevent, very frequently, his fore or hind quarters from being hurt, by ſtriking againſt the bar, in conſequence of his reluctance to take a leap, to which he has not been patiently and gradually trained.

CHAP. VII.

NATURAL PACES. *The Walk, the Trot, and the Gallop.*

SUPPOSE yourself mounted, with your bridle-reins adjusted in either one or both hands; the position of your switch or whip corresponding; then put your horse into a walk; in directing him, you should be careful to avoid using the spur. The greatest judgement is necessary for inducing him to execute his natural paces well, for I consider a good walk, as the foundation of his other paces. The action of the walk is four distinct beats, in perfect running *cadence*; namely—the off fore-foot leading first, marks one; the near hind-foot, two; the near fore foot, three; and the off hind-foot, four; encouraging the horse to a bold action by the excellence of the bridle-hand, and its corresponding *appui*.—Both united to what is termed a good bridle hand, cannot but assist in bringing up his hind, in strict unison with his fore quarters. Here I must remark, and endeavour to impress

impreſs on the reader's mind my former obſervation, *viz.* the neceſſity of poſſeſſing a good muſical capacity, without which, the walk may be corrupted, and the horſe's action rendered diſagreeable to the eye, as well as uneaſy to the horſeman. Pliability in the rider is alſo requiſite as well as in the horſe; perfect and abſolute reciprocity is here neceſſary.

OF THE TROT.

The excellence of this action depends much on the degree of perfection in the walk; for I have found that when a horſe walks well, with ſhoulders pliant, lofty head, &c. he is ſeldom deficient in any of his other natural paces.

The trot is two legs in the air, and two on the ground, at one and the ſame time, in the form of a St. Andrew's croſs, viz. The off fore-foot, and the near hind-foot—and the near fore-foot and the off hind-foot—ſo that the action of the trot is 2-2 equal, inſtead of 1, 2, 3, 4, as in the walk; both actions muſt be in perfect *cadence*, without which, the horſe cannot arrive at the degree of excellence or perfection neceſſary.

THE GALLOP.

The gallop I conſider under three diſtinct heads, namely—That of the Racer, on the courſe at Newmarket; the Hunter, under moderate animation on the plain; and the lady's or pleaſure horſe, on the road. Each of theſe actions has its peculiar excellence; but the laſt I conceive to be the moſt difficult to accompliſh, it requiring the ſkill of an able profeſſor to foreſhorten and throw the horſe on his haunches, ſufficiently to complete this action. Laſtly, due care muſt be taken, that the horſe does not gallop diſunited: be it here underſtood that, in galloping ſtraight forward, the horſe may lead with which fore leg he pleaſes; but with whatever fore-leg he leads, the hind leg of the ſame ſide muſt follow, otherwiſe, I term it, falſe action, or being diſunited; but in daſhing forward, and turning to right or left, it is neceſſary that the fore-foot, neareſt the centre, ſhould take the lead; if otherwiſe, you may bring your horſe to the ground.

I cannot conclude without noticing the AMBLE, which may be conſidered as a natural pace of the horſe; becauſe, moſt foals following their dams amble more or leſs to keep up with them: the difference between the walk and the amble, is, that two legs of a ſide are raiſed in the latter at one and the ſame inſtant, and ſo on *vice verſa*.

But

But to return to the bridle-hand, and the advantages to be derived from a due knowledge of it.

To arrive at the thorough knowledge of the bridle-hand muſt be a work of time; and I am ſtrictly of opinion that no one can ever attain the appellation of a good bridle hand, without much practice, pliability, and great command of body on horſeback. If I be allowed the parity, I am ſure there are as many *notes* appertaining to the bridle-hand, as to the *gamut* for any inſtrument.

By the knowledge of the bridle-hand, you obtain dominion over, and out-manœuvre every cunning of the horſe; from the bridle-hand you refreſh the horſe's mouth, in ſhort, every thing that is deſirable is acquired by it.—Thus regulating each action of the horſe to what beſt ſuits your ſeat; for, in fact, it may be ſaid, that the ſafety of the horſeman depends upon a good bridle-hand; ſuppoſing that he has a ſufficient knowledge of the force and utility of the ſnaffle, or bit, as well as holding the bridle-reins; which all the theory of the moſt able profeſſors, cannot complete you in, and can never be acquired without much practice and experience.

My method is to ride with a ſnaffle and running rein-bridle; indeed I uſe it for my chaiſe and coach horſes, having ſome averſion to the long branch-bit.

This

This ſpecies of bridle greatly aſſiſts me in raiſing the horſe's head, when riding, driving, and more particularly in the *manege*. There is poſitively no doing without it; but the uſe of this kind of bridle I conſider as ſimilar to poiſon in the hands of an ignorant phyſician, for without a proper knowledge of its tendencies, nothing but deſtruction will enſue!

Moreover, a good bridle-hand makes a ſteady horſe, chiefly, if the juſt *appui* be obſerved.—Horſes receive ſome puniſhment from the mouth-piece of the bridle, where the *appui* is corrupted; or, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, diſorganized.—The former, in every ſenſe of the word, operates as a kind of inſenſible communication between the hand and the mouth, directing the horſe in his pure *cadence:* when the latter may produce untimely puniſhment, and ſuch puniſhment, nothing but imperfect or corrected *cadence*, and a total deſtruction of the horſe's action.

The reader will find, under Chap. I. and II. other remarks on this head, and to which the young practitioner is moſt reſpectfully recommended, by the Author, to pay particular attention, he having in the courſe of long practice, been much benefited by the preſcribed method.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Draught Horſes.

HAVE found by experience that moſt horſes ſubmit to draw, when they have refuſed to carry quietly; or, in other words, have been ſpoiled by unſkilful jockies. With regard to teaching horſes to draw, I would not recommend them to be put into harneſs before their ſhoulders are ſuppled, and they have learned to trot the circle with great addreſs and agility.

After the horſe has been thus properly worked, accuſtomed to back, and will ſuffer a bit to be put in his mouth, let him be harneſſed and worked in hand. In teaching him to draw, you ſhould firſt fix one man to the traces; when he has learned to draw *him* quietly, fix another, and thus continue increaſing the number of men.

By this gradual method you will find he is inſenſibly taught to draw, when, perhaps, had you fixed him

him at firſt to the carriage, he would have been ſo frightened and prejudiced, that you would never have been able to have taught him afterwards. Obſerve that the traces be of ſufficient length, ſo as to ſuffer the man or men he draws to be out of his reach of kicking, if he backs, let the man or men fixed to the traces abſtain from pulling againſt him; but if he draws willingly, be ſure not to continue his exerciſe ſo as to fatigue or prejudice him againſt the leſſon he is learning; rather let him reſt very frequently, and in thoſe intervals uſe every means of careſſes, feeding him with a little corn, in fine, holding out to him every poſſible encouragement, ſuch as I have ſo much recommended in the former leſſons:—for he deſerves your kindneſs, when he ſhews you the leaſt diſpoſition to obey, and you have obtained a great deal of him when you find he is willing to draw even the weight of a ſingle man.—This mode is particularly to be adopted in preference to harneſſing the horſe at firſt to the carriage; for in this latter injurious, injudicious, and dangerous method, the horſe, in his fright, and reluctance to draw, frequently ruins himſelf intirely.

Such an accident as this I witneſſed near Weſtminſter bridge:—ſome butchers had hired a cart, with an intention of trying a horſe which one of them had bought; the conſequence was, that the horſe, proving reſtive, ſet off in full ſpeed with the cart

cart and three men in it, bore every thing down in his way, broke one of the party's leg, diflocated the fhoulder of another, and totally ruined himfelf.

This leffon is particularly directed to all who delight in draught horfes; for nothing can be more ufeful to the community in general, than to know how to teach them with fafety to draw any carriage.

In exercifing the horfe, it muft be obferved that you make him form a path repreferting the figure of eight, which being too circles joined, you may then exercife him round each feparately, firft to the right, then to the left, alternately;—he conferquently will be fupplied each way: but when you put him to the carriage, avoid quarrelling with him for the three firft days, otherwife you may, perhaps, render him as refractory as he was when you firft began to teach him to draw. Should he then refufe, inftead of correcting, take him from the carriage and repeat his exercife with men in the traces, as you did at firft, and continue fo until you make him obedient to your purpofe.

Before I conclude this chapter, I would particularly advife that the horfe be not oppreffed with the pinching of the bit, the tightnefs of the harnefs, nor the too great weight of the carriage; for all

all theſe circumſtances irritate his temper and render him unwilling to perform what you expect from him. If you have two horſes to your carriage, be ſure to chooſe them of equal ſtrength and ſpirit, otherwiſe the more vigorous one will be liable to be ſpoiled, from his having the greater ſhare of the labour in drawing, ariſing from his ſuperiority of ſpirit:—and in your journies, particularly remember to go ſtages of no more than eight miles, at which feed them with a little hay and corn at a time; be ſure, likewiſe, to give them a little water, not exceeding two quarts, at every ſtage. Another great article in travelling to be obſerved, is, to have the wheels of your carriage greaſed, whilſt you are on the road, at leaſt once a day: for I deem greaſing the wheels to be actually increaſing the ſtrength of your horſes, at leaſt, if it be not literally ſo, it conduces to that effect.

And, finally, obſerve, when you arrive at the inn where you mean to lie, to have their feet picked, oiled, and ſtuffed; and, before you leave it in the morning, let them have no hay in their racks for at leaſt two hours previous to your departure, and inſtead of it give them a feed of corn.

Obſerve, when you ſet off, not to begin your ſtage ſo faſt, as to fatigue your horſes before they have ſcarcely warmed themſelves; and when you are approaching the end of your ſtage, not to heat them

them in such a manner as to endanger their taking cold; to which accident the best horses are liable, from being driven in great perspiration into the stables, and there left to stand on the cold stones. If accident or circumstances should oblige you to heat them too much, when they arrive, be careful to have some litter immediately placed under their feet, and to have them rubbed as dry as they possibly can be by the hostlers. As soon as they arrive, give them a pint of water, which you will find will refresh them, and serve as a stimulus to the food you intend for them. The stables should neither be too close, nor too much exposed to the cold, neither should they be too public; for if they are, the noise your horses will hear must undoubtedly prevent them from going to rest, which is the most necessary species of refreshment that animal requires, to enable him to bear the fatigues of the road.—Observe, finally, that the halters have logs, and be of sufficient length to admit your horses to lie down without any restraint; for want of this requisite, trifling as it may appear, I have known horses prevented from taking any rest, and even lying down with ease the whole night.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Feeding, Watering, Dreſſing, and Managing Horſes, either at Reſt, or on a Journey.

PREVENTING diſeaſes in horſes is as deſirable, as the curing them: many diſorders with which they are afflicted being cauſed by improper treatment.

With regard to the feeding, and the managing them in every other reſpect, I would firſt be cautious to prevent evils, before I ſay any thing relative to the cure; for I am certain moſt of the diſeaſes, incident to horſes, are to be avoided by proper attention and management; thoſe, which are not to be prevented, I am equally certain, may be effectually cured without ſending for a farrier to bleed or rowel them; or to the chymiſt to drench, purge, or ſweeten them.

With reſpect to the prevention of diſorders, be ſure your horſes are firſt provided with good hay, oats, and ſtraw; in feeding them, be careful not to

to give them too much hay, which occaſions horſes more diſorders than can be imagined:—too much hay, or of a bad quality, occaſions flatulencies, difficulty in breathing, indigeſtions, ſlowneſs of circulation of blood, and foul humours, which frequently ſettle on their lungs, and cauſe that diſorder, to which horſes are ſo liable, namely, greaſy heels. All their maladies are chiefly cauſed by giving them more hay, than, perhaps, their age or their labour requires.

A horſe, not more than ſeven years old, requires not ſo much nouriſhment as one of ten, unleſs he have more labour to undergo: if he have, then his food ſhould be, in the ſame degree, increaſed.—A young riding horſe, not exceeding ſeven years old, ſhould not have more than eighteen pounds weight of hay per day, the ſame quantity of wheat-ſtraw, and two feeds of corn. From that age, to twelve years, he may have as much, as twenty pounds weight, and a preparer and ſtraw; but in no inſtance whatever ſhould any horſe have more than twenty-four pounds weight per day. I have been convinced of the bad effects of giving horſes more than in this ſpecified proportion. Greaſy heels may only be attributed to the great quantity of bad hay they eat, unqualified with a proper quantity of corn; had they more corn, the bad effects of eating ſo much hay, would be, in ſome degree, corrected; but,

but, as they are chiefly fed on hay of a bad quality, they are always afflicted with the above diſeaſe.—A little good wheat-ſtraw, laid in the manger, with the hay, whether good or bad, is very wholeſome.

In the above directions, reſpecting the quantity to be given to riding horſes, I forgot to mention that draught horſes ſhould have in the proportion of four pounds weight more per day; obſerve alſo, never to water your horſes until they are entirely cold, and if you are travelling, be careful to have their feet examined before you leave the inn, at every ſtage; by this means, you will ſee if any ſtones or gravel are in their hoofs, or between the ſhoes and the hoof; you will likewiſe know if their ſhoes be bad, or requires removing; ſhould they want ſhoeing, or to have their ſhoes removed, let it be done two days at leaſt before you begin your journey, in order to afford time ſufficient for them to ſettle and conform to the feet. Commence your journey, if poſſible, with ſhort ſtages; never check or prevent your horſe from ſtaling, for this cauſes many accidents, ſuch as the ſtone, the gravel, the dropſy, and the ſtranguary.—The firſt pure and wholeſome water you paſs, on the road, after ſeven in the morning, in ſummer, and nine in the winter, let them drink a little; but the faſter you intend to travel, the leſs water you need give them; if you be not in particular ſpeed,

ride

ride or drive your horſes for ſix minutes before you arrive at your inn rather leiſurely: this will enable them to recover their wind, and when unbridled, they will, with greater avidity and appetite, take whatever feeding you think proper to give them, provided it be ſuch, and in the quantities, I have before recommended; ſhould your buſineſs require you to travel with more haſte, order them, if it be warm weather, to be walked about the ſtable-yard, or inn-door, in a man's hand; by this method they will cool by degrees, and, conſequently, not be ſo liable, as they otherwiſe would be, to chill in the ſtable; but ſhould the weather happen to be cold, let them be covered with proper clothing, and then order the groom or hoſtler to walk them in ſome ride or place, that is covered and ſheltered from the wind and weather; ſhould there be no ſuch covered place, let them be taken into the ſtable, and their whole body rubbed down with freſh ſtraw, until they be perfectly dry and clean.—Theſe are all the rules, that I think requiſite to give, reſpecting the management of your horſes, before you feed them.

With regard to their food, and farther care in the ſtable, it may be proper to obſerve, that ſhould your horſes be dry, in conſequence of your not having given them any water on the road, let the oats you order them be waſhed in good mild ale,

ale.—Duſt, ſand, and quick reſpiration, ſometimes dry the mouth and tongue of a horſe, ſo as intirely to deſtroy his appetite; to reſtore this, give him ſome bran moiſtened with water, which will likewiſe greatly cool and refreſh him; ſhould you have ridden him exceſſively hard, order him to be unſaddled immediately, have his ſweat ſcraped off, and deſire the hoſtler to take a little vinegar in his month, and ſpirt it into that of the horſe; then let his head, his cheſt, between his fore legs, his belly, between his hind legs, and, indeed, all his body be rubbed with clean ſtraw, until he be as dry as he poſſibly can be made; ſuffer him not to drink until he is entirely cool, and has eaten a little hay or a few oats; for many horſes, by being permitted to drink too ſoon after they are taken into the ſtable, have been ruined.—This careleſs and precipitate method is the cauſe frequently of ſtaggers and of ſurfeit in horſes;—to dry the pannel of the ſaddle, from the moiſture it imbibed from the perſpiration of the horſe, order it to be placed in the ſun or before a fire.

Should you have come a long journey in the day, examine, at night, your horſe's back, in order to ſee if it be galled, pinched, or ſwelled from the too great preſſure of the ſaddle.—You may, perhaps, not diſcover it immediately on your arrival at the inn, as the tumour or ſwelling frequently

frequently does not form itſelf until ſome time after the ſaddle is taken off; in this caſe, I would adviſe your examining the back again after ſupper, when, if it be wrung, you will certainly perceive it, and the place.—Whenever you find ſuch an accident, you can apply nothing better to cleanſe and heal it, than good brandy, mixed with the white of an egg, and ſhould the horſe gall between either its fore or hind legs, uſe the ſame remedy; but if you be careful to have the hoſtler rub the horſe well between the legs, he will ſeldom gall in thoſe parts.

Having given theſe directions for feeding and managing horſes, at night, on a journey, I think it proper here to conclude with repeating, what is indiſpenſably neceſſary, namely—to have your horſe's feet well waſhed, after which to be examined, in order to have all the ſand and gravel, lodged between the ſoles of their feet picked out, and their ſhoes, ſhould it prove neceſſary, well put on.

Let their feet be ſtuffed with cow-dung, which will greatly cool, eaſe, and refreſh them, from the wearineſs of the paſt day's journey; and conſequently prepare them better to ſuſtain the fatigue of the ſucceeding day. The reader will find more on this head in the following chapter.

CHAP. X.

Dialogue between Mr. Aſtley and a Traveller.

TRAVELLER. IT gives me great pleaſure, Mr. Aſtley, to have had an opportunity of dining with you this day, and I ſhall conſider myſelf highly favoured, if you will afford me half an hour's converſation on the indiſpoſition of my horſe, which has given me much trouble and concern.

Mr. ASTLEY. Moſt willingly, Sir, it always affords me the greateſt pleaſure to adminiſter every aſſiſtance, in my power, to the brute creation, and eſpecially to ſo valuable a part of it.—You will, therefore, pleaſe to inform me, what you have obſerved with regard to your horſe's indiſpoſition.

TRAVELLER. When I left London, a fortnight ſince, my horſe, apparently, was in good health; I have

have travelled about forty miles a-day, uſing the precaution of ſtopping every ten miles to give him a little water and hay, prior to my offering him corn: both of which (for I cloſely examined them) have been of the beſt quality, neither have I ridden him at the rate of more than five miles and a half an hour.

Mr. ASTLEY. I diſcover, Sir, that you know the neceſſary point for preſerving the horſe in health on a journey; namely, ſtrictly attending to his being fed with the very beſt hay, and alſo the beſt corn; which certainly is one of our firſt duties.

Pray Sir, how did you diſcover that your horſe was indiſpoſed?

TRAVELLER. From his refuſing, in part, his allowance of corn and hay; in fact, his loſs of appetite daily encreaſed.

Mr. ASTLEY. How did you proceed, thus circumſtanced?

TRAVELLER. I ſent for a farrier, in order to deliberate what was beſt to be done; he adviſed the taking a little blood from him, but I fear he took too much.

Mr. Astley. If the horſe had any ſigns of fever, or his pulſe was very high, I think he was juſtified.

Traveller. I believe he had no fever.

Mr. Astley. In that caſe he did wrong; for, as the ſtomach is influenced by health and diſeaſe, and as that alone was affected, I could have wiſhed a ſtomachic had been applied, inſtead of the bleeding.

Traveller. Pray, Sir, what is the beſt under the preſent circumſtances?

Mr. Astley. There are many; but firſt, I would adviſe you to find out a ſubſtitute for the hay, and another for the corn; in ſhort, a proper regimen of diet, which may afford ſome relief, and, in time, effect a total cure.—Of ſuch ſubſtitutes, being timely adminiſtered, I have many times experienced the efficacy, and furthermore, I know they at leaſt enabled the horſe daily to travel ſhort journies, when he had no other weight, except that of the rider.

Traveller. Sir I admire your ideas; pray loſe no time, but inform me what are theſe ſubſtitutes? and are they really conducive to the preſervation of horſes in health, on a journey?

Mr.

Mr. ASTLEY. Unquestionably so, Sir; for in the thousands of miles that I have travelled, and the number of years experience which I have had, such have been their use to me, more particularly in hot weather, that, in some cases, similar to the disease under which your horse labours, I could never have got to the end of my journey without them; and I have found that the horses of five years old, unaccustomed to travel, have been more subject to such disease than horses much older.

TRAVELLER. From your observations I may infer, as my horse is only rising four years old, that that circumstance might, in part, be the cause of his being not altogether equal to the journey, and of course, though not ridden over hard, it might affect his appetite; but pray, Sir, proceed with your substitutes.

Mr. ASTLEY. Half a pound of honey, nightly, dissolved in a quart of boiling water, and immediately thrown over half a peck of malt, (in a pail) incorporated well together, and given to the horse, a handful at a time, a little warm, I have found to be an excellent substitute for oats, for the night and morning feeding, or an increase of the quantity, according to art.—Honey I have found by experience to be excellent for horses on a journey; its balsamic, diuretic, and diaphoretic qualities, &c. I have no occasion to speak of, being sufficiently

ſufficiently known. I have alſo given with great ſucceſs, a quarter of an ounce of ſulphur, incorporated with the malt-maſh for a week together; and where honey could not be obtained, I have made uſe of treacle.—As a ſubſtitute for hay in diſeaſes of horſes, or to keep them in health, ſliced carrots, parſnips, apples, and pears, I have found to be excellent in the winter months; and a little graſs with the malt-maſh, highly neceſſary in the ſummer months, in addition to the carrots, &c.

TRAVELLER. I moſt heartily thank you for your hints, and I hope I ſhall profit by your advice; I moſt certainly will adopt your preſcription; but pray, Sir, have you noticed, during your long experience, what have been the chief cauſes of the loſs of appetite?

Mr. ASTLEY. Great fatigue, bad food, travelling in cold and rain; carrying greater weight than the horſe's ſtrength is equal to; puſhing him ſmart up hills, while he had water in his ſtomach, and keeping him long on the road, when the loſs of appetite firſt appeared; ſuch circumſtances certainly tend to bring on and encreaſe this diſeaſe; more particularly with young and ſpirited horſes; I may add, from being too heavily ſhod, or having too much iron put in the ſhoes, which fatigues a horſe beyond all calculation, ſuch I mean, as are for a conſiderable time on the road—a precaution to the contrary muſt tend to prevent the complaint.

TRAVELLER

TRAVELLER. I have ever had my eye on this point, conſidering that an ounce of iron, placed at the extremity of the horſe's foot, may be conſidered as equal to three pounds on his back.

Mr. ASTLEY. Sir, you are before-hand with me —you have anticipated my remark, and it is certainly well founded.

TRAVELLER. Now, Sir, as we have got to the horſe's feet, will you have the goodneſs to inform me of the beſt mode of preſerving them on a journey?

Mr. ASTLEY. My practice has been to take two pennyworth of each of the following: linſeed oil and turpentine oil, ſhook well in a bottle, and when the horſe's hoof is dry, I cauſe it to be rubbed well round the coronet, as alſo the whole hoof, ſole, &c. this to be applied every ſecond night, in hot weather, and every third night, when the weather is damp or cold; I have found it to be excellent, eaſily to be obtained, and every way equal to the purpoſe.

In the intervening nights, I make uſe of a little warm hog's lard, and ſtuff the feet up with a little tow; firſt dipping it in the hog's lard, and placing very little ſticks, croſſways, under the ſhoe, in order to keep the tow in its place.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

The many Diſeaſes to which Horſes are liable, their Regimen, and Method of Cure.

I DO not mean here to give a long and elaborate liſt of all the diſorders with which horſes are afflicted, but only ſuch as are the moſt frequent and dangerous, with particular directions to be obſerved in the management and regimen, as well as the beſt and moſt ready phyſical means of preventing and curing them.—So that whatever rules I take the liberty of ſuggeſting, will not be dictated by dogmatical theory, but by the unerring proofs of my own long experience.

Young horſes, of ſpirit and vigour, I have always found the moſt liable to diſorders, and thoſe too of the moſt dangerous nature—their animation and natural heat of blood, cauſe them frequently to exhauſt even their great portion of ſtrength, in ſuch a manner, as to leave them, when under unſkilful management,

management, a prey to langour and to loſs of appetite.—Their too violent exertions often inflame their blood to ſuch a degree, as to bring on them the moſt alarming fevers.—Other diſorders to which they are liable, from great and extraordinary efforts to ſerve you, are colds, obſtructed circulation of the blood, and ſurfeit.—But all theſe, as I have hinted, may be cauſed by careleſs and ignorant treatment; leaving them to uninformed, unexperienced, and indolent grooms, occaſions them more afflictions than any other circumſtance whatever. The horſe, indeed, could he ſpeak, would reiterate in your ears the following golden advice: "BE WATCHFUL THAT I AM TREATED WITH PROPER CARE, AND FED WITH WHOLESOME FOOD, AS A REWARD FOR MY SERVICES, AND FOR THE ENABLING ME TO CONTINUE THEM."

Over-working horſes is not only the moſt cruel, but moſt impolitic conduct you can obſerve in the management of them.—Many, to gratify a few minutes vanity, in ſhewing that their horſes are better than any they paſs, or travel in company with, will ride them in ſuch a mad, inhuman, and imprudent manner, as intirely to ruin the beſt of creatures.—Others will, to arrive, perhaps, an hour ſooner at the end of their journey, ride or drive their horſes as faſt up hill and down dale as poſſible.—Hence originate all thoſe evils attendant on ſprains, on diſlocations, and conſumptions: I cannot,

not, therefore, too much recommend the greateſt care and moderation in riding or driving them; for the diſorder, firſt occaſioned by this indiſcreet management, if not cured immediately, brings upon them a hoſt of other diſorders, which combined, baffle all the united powers of ſkill and medicine.

As moſt of their diſeaſes are chymical, and have their origin in their blood being vitiated by too much heat, cold, or improper food, every precaution ſhould be uſed in riding and in feeding them.

A number of grooms erroneouſly imagine that a horſe cannot retain his health and vigour, without their conſtantly bleeding, purging, ſweating, rowelling, &c. What ignorance and ſtupidity! From this falſe opinion and conduct, many horſes are bled and phyſicked out of their ſtrength and exiſtence. Could a remedy be found thoroughly to cure the effects of idleneſs in the ſtable, to prevent hoſtlers, drivers, and grooms, from leaving their horſes, after violent exerciſe, at a public houſe, or the door of a gin-ſhop, many diſeaſes might, indeed, be prevented: not that I mean to fix a general ſtigma on all grooms, for I know there are ſome perfectly qualified to be intruſted with whatever horſes may be committed to their care.—It is almoſt a certainty if you find a groom careful of his

own

own money, he will take particular care of your horſe!

The moment your horſe is attacked with any indiſpoſition, he ſhould be turned looſe into a large open ſtable; but ſhould the weather be warm, he ſhould be at liberty out of doors: for leave nature to her own unerring operations, and ſhe will perform more wonders than all the liſt of medicines collected in one general maſs! I have ſeen horſes killed by ignorant perſons adminiſtering ſtrong purges;—a proof that the habit of body or the diſeaſe of the horſe rendered them improper.—But although I condemn the general adminiſtration of medicines, whenever a horſe has the leaſt illneſs, yet I acknowledge there are ſome acute diſeaſes, which abſolutely require the immediate aſſiſtance of phyſic, whilſt others require very little or no attention.

LOSS OF APPETITE.

As the ſtomach is the principal ſeat of this diſeaſe the greater attention ought to be paid to it.

Young horſes are moſt ſubject to this diſorder, from being liable to contract colds, coughs, fevers &c. in conſequence of being over-worked: when a horſe

horſe is afflicted with this diſeaſe, and it ſhould proceed from the above cauſe, and be attended with a little fever, take away from him *immediately*, one pint of blood, and one pint a day for four mornings after; but if the fever increaſe, go on with one pint a day for ſeven mornings, give him the fever powders *(ſee index at word fever)* whenever the fever appears, but not otherwiſe—then take half a pound of honey, and diſſolve it in a quart of boiling water; pour this to half a peck of malt or bran, and after you have blended it well, give the horſe three or four handfuls every hour; continue this regimen for ſome days, at the ſame time, let him be perfectly at reſt; and if it be in the ſummer ſeaſon, cut a little graſs for him, which, as it is his natural food, will greatly refreſh and nouriſh him—but ſhould he refuſe to eat the above, give him ſome water gruel, ſweetened with honey, to the quantity of three pints a day, in equal proportions.—You may add to the gruel, a quarter of a pint of diſtilled anniſeed water, which may be had at any inn, or public-houſe on the road. But ſhould he not take cordially any of the above preparations, turn him immediately from the rack, and tie to his bit a quarter of an ounce of aſa fœtida, put in a rag.—Let him champ on this for a few hours, which will greatly tend to recover his ſpirits, and reſtore his appetite.

Should

Should he have a purging at the ſame time, which frequently happens, give him a pound of treacle, diſſolved in a quart of water, by the aſſiſtance of a horn or a bottle.—You will find this an excellent remedy to cleanſe the bowels of all thoſe corroſive particles, which lie in his ſtomach, proceeding from unwholeſome ſeeds and weeds, that often are found in hay, and are the cauſe of his being thus purged.—If he have this additional diſeaſe, you will find him waſte in ſtrength, ſpirits, and fleſh, ſo faſt, as to render him irrecoverable, if you loſe a moment in applying the remedy I have here adviſed.

Should his loſs of appetite proceed from a violent cough, and very high fever,* let two quarts of blood

* A fever is known by every groom or farrier, who has the leaſt knowledge of what is the regular circulation of a horſe's blood: for by the ſlowneſs or quickneſs of the pulſe the ſtate of the animal is to be aſcertained. A violent quick pulſe will always denote either the ſymptom or the paroxyſm of a moſt raging fever. This is likewiſe to be known by other ſigns, ſuch as extreme languor of ſpirits, chillneſs in the extremities of the body and limbs, intenſe heat in the mouth, torpor of the faculties, drowſineſs of the ſenſes, and a total inaction in the whole frame and animal ſyſtem. When theſe ſymptoms appear, the horſe ſhould be immediately bled as directed; if not, the animal is in danger of dying in the courſe of a few days; for this is generally his fate, in a violent fever. Many hundreds of horſes have I known to be thus rapidly carried out of exiſtence, for want of the immediate care, which I have

blood be immediately taken from him, and give him ſmall doſes of fever-powders, frequently repeated, with walking exerciſe, if poſſible. Obſerve, at the ſame time, to keep him clothed with ſeveral rugs, and inſtead of placing them over his back, as the ſeat of his diſorder lies in his bowels, let them be placed, ſo as to cover his belly entirely, and only meet on the back. Put a cloth over them and the body roller, which bind together with the ſurcingle.

Honey is excellent for horſes afflicted with great difficulty of breathing, violent coughs, colds, and obſtructions, indeed I have never found any thing more effectual.—Nothing is more eaſy in its operation.—From the experience I have had of its qualities. I have taken myſelf, for theſe laſt twenty years, a large table ſpoonful of it every morning in water gruel, which is my conſtant breakfaſt in winter.—In ſummer I take milk, which, I conſider, has then all the qualities of honey, from the cows feeding upon the herbage and flowers, whence the bees extract this divine ſubſtance.—That honey ſhould be ſalutary in the higheſt degree to horſes, is not in the leaſt ſurpriſing, as it is the eſſence of their natural food, and therefore, muſt be congenial to their conſtitution and their nature.

I have recommended—but when they have been bled, as I have preſcribed, and had the fever powders *(ſee index, word fevers)* I have known as many to be ſaved.

When

When the diſorder is at its criſis I would adviſe the following drink:

Take one quart of thin water-gruel, ſweetened with honey; of linſeed, anniſeed, and carraway ſeeds, each half an ounce; two cloves of garlick; the latter beaten in a mortar, are to be put in the gruel, give of this preparation, night and morning, one quart each time.—Repeat this medicine until the cold is entirely cured, and the appetite of the horſe reſtored.

During this, let him have no water but what is rendered luke warm, by the addition of boiling water. Uſe moderate exerciſe, which will tend to cauſe the medicine to be more effectual in its operation;—by obſerving this with proper care and perſeverance you will find your horſe very ſoon recover from his indiſpoſition—but you muſt be careful, whilſt you are adminiſtering the above drink, to have him rubbed down with ſtraw, and clothed carefully, agreeably to the urgency of the ſeaſon.

To aid the above remedies in their operations, if the horſe be of a coſtive habit of body, adminiſter the following clyſter:

Take five pints of whey, three ounces of ſenna, half a pound of common ſugar, half a pint of ſweet oil,

oil, and a handful of ſalt; boil theſe ingredients all together, and give a ſufficient quantity as a clyſter, tolerably warm, to the horſe.—Repeat this for three days ſucceſſively; ſuffer him to eat bran-maſhes, give him a good bed of ſtraw to indulge his inclination for lying down; and if his ſtable be paved with ſtones or bricks, to prevent the cold from chilling his bowels, cover his belly and loins with proper clothing, as a defence againſt this danger.

STRANGLES.

They generally commence with a tumour or ſwelling under the throat, and many times in other parts of the body.

REMEDY.

Be careful the horſe has not any cold water given him, feed him as recommended in the other diſorders, keep him moderately warm, and exerciſe him gently until the tumour diſcharges itſelf of the collected matter—then anoint the ſwelling, which may remain, with warm linſeed oil, and keep it from the inclemency of the air; for I am convinced, ſhould you attempt to diſperſe the ſwelling by mercurials, you would only drive the infectious matter through the whole frame, and

thus

thus vitiate his intire mafs of blood, which, by an effort of nature, was thus purifying itfelf, by forming in the tumour a collection of that foulnefs, it might have contracted from furfeit, contagion, or fudden tranfitions from heat to cold, and from cold to heat.—Thus, by not permitting nature to end her own work, you prevent her all-wife intentions, her beneficent defigns.

During forty years practice, I have had a great number of young horfes, that have been moft violently afflicted with this diforder.—Others very flightly, but I have not had a fingle horfe die, in confequence of this diftemper.

Before I difmifs this fubject, I wifh to obferve that, fhould the tumour be difficult in admitting of a felf difcharge, it would not be improper to affift nature by lancing it in two places, and then in the orifices placing two or three twifted horfe-hairs tying their ends together in the form of a ring; this will keep the tumour open until all the matter be difcharged.—Anoint the place afflicted at the fame time with ointment of elder, until it is intirely healed; alfo give the veterinary powders, recommended for the ftrangles, &c. (*See index, at word ftrangles.*)

THE VIES

Appear fomewhat like the ſtrangles, but are more virulent, numerous, and dangerous.—They gather in ſmall ſwellings on each ſide of the throat, cauſe the horſe a conſiderable degree of pain, deprive him of his appetite, and are exceedingly difficult to cure.

THEIR REMEDY

Is the ſame as for the ſtrangles, excepting, that ſhould the attendant inflammation be very great, you are to bleed the horſe proportionably, and preſerve his throat from the cold by proper bandages, which may not irritate the parts afflicted: give the horſe the veterinary powders, as for the ſtrangles.

GLANDERS.

Their ſigns are a violent emiſſion of white, yellow, and green feted matter; it is frequently ſtreaked with blood; it flows from one or both noſtrils; they are likewiſe attended with kernels underneath the jaw-bones.—Both young and old horſes are ſubject to this diſeaſe.—The cauſe is moſtly to be attributed to long and continual colds, which impoveriſh the blood and juices, and ſuch as have not

not been properly and effectually cured.—The nature of this diſeaſe is ſuch, that, in its laſt ſtage, it may be compared to a man in a conſumption, and is equally difficult to remove.

The experience which I have had, in the cavalry in Germany, has clearly demonſtrated to me the truth of this.—I have known horſes, after ſtanding two campaigns, to have been ſhot, under the prejudiced ſuppoſition (from their being afflicted with this diſorder), that they were incurable, and would infect the reſt of the horſes. But as I have known horſes ſhot on the right and on the left of them for this diſorder, while others that were intermediate eſcaped its effects, nothing can be a greater proof to me that this diſeaſe is not contagious by the medium of the air.—Should a healthy horſe imbibe or taſte any of the ſaliva of one, which is affected, I will not ſay but that, in ſuch caſe, the diſorder might be caught.

With regard to its being incurable, from the many I have reſtored, I can, with the greateſt confidence, conclude ſuch aſſertion to be equally founded in error.

When the running of this fœtid matter has been ſo great, as I have witneſſed, it has defied all the powers of medicine, and the ſkill of the moſt ex-

perienced farrier.—The diſorder thus continued daily to increaſe, without the leaſt hopes or proſpect of its being diminiſhed.—The horſe's ſtrength thus decreaſing very rapidly, and his whole ſyſtem debilitating, he was at length found to be totally irrecoverable, and was under the neceſſity of being ſhot.

Some horſes, though they ſtood in the ſame ſtable with thoſe afflicted with this diſorder, eſcaped from even the leaſt ſymptom of it. But I have known others that have been expoſed to the inclemency of the weather, very much afflicted with it. It appears, therefore, to be more the effect of cold than of contagion;—it proceeds likewiſe from hard riding in winter, bad food, extremes of heat and of cold, and from not having that care taken of them, which they require after a long, a ſevere, and a violent exerciſing.

If this diſeaſe be in its firſt ſtage, it is curable, but if in the laſt, it is very difficult, indeed, to recover the horſe ſo afflicted;—yet I would not recommend either too much confidence, nor too much deſpondency in prejudging the poſſibility or impoſſibility of curing any diſeaſe; for I have ſeen horſes moſt violently afflicted with this diſorder, and even in its worſt ſtage, reſtored to their former health and vigour.

CURE.

CURE.

In the firſt ſtage of the glanders, bleed, and keep the horſe warm; give him bran-maſhes ſweetened with honey, and infuſe into them a handful of linſeed, and one ounce of brimſtone; let him drink nothing but warm water, in which plenty of honey has been diſſolved.

Ground-ivy, cut very ſmall, and mixed with his corn or bran-maſhes, I have found moſt excellent in the cure of old coughs, colds, and the firſt ſtage of the glanders;—it is likewiſe moſt effectual in diſperſing the tumours under the throat of the horſe.—In adminiſtering theſe remedies, ſtrict care ſhould be taken, that the horſe have very moderate exerciſe every day, that he be then rubbed dry with clean ſtraw, be in a warm ſtable, and well clothed.

As a ſtill more effectual means of furthering the cure, you may inject every morning a little warm vinegar up his noſtrils.

In the laſt ſtage of the glanders, the greateſt care muſt be taken in adminiſtering the remedy hereafter preſcribed; leſt the diſeaſe ſhould ſo much increaſe, as to make the cure afterwards too difficult

difficult to be effected by your ſkill and endeavours. Thus rendering uſeleſs and of no avail all your former care and your medical applications.

Having given the medicines already preſcribed for the firſt ſtage, for about a fortnight, and finding the diſeaſe rather increaſe, than diminiſh, adopt the following external remedy:—Cut out the kernals under the throat, and dreſs the wounds well with the Author's veterinary arquebuſade (*ſee Index, at word arquebuſade*) and keep the wound open with a ſmall tent for a month or ſix weeks; let the tent itſelf be dipped in the following ſimple, but excellent ointment: take half a pound of hog's lard, half an ounce of virgin-wax, a quarter of an ounce of Venice turpentine, and the yolks of four eggs, beat up with ſweet oil; melt the three firſt ingredients in a pipkin or ladle; then pour in the mixture of eggs and oil, and ſtir them until they be cold. Should the ointment be found too hard for uſe, you may ſoften it with ſweet oil.

Continue giving the horſe warm water ſweetened with honey, during the adminiſtering of theſe remedies.—If the glanders be curable, you will find the following effectually to anſwer your endeavours to reſtore him to his former health. If the cure be practicable, you will ſee it effected in about a month, or ſix weeks; but ſhould your remedies, during this time of application, prove ſo ineffectual,

ineffectual, as not to have afforded your horſe the leaſt relief, there remains then little or no hopes at all of his recovery.

THE LAST REMEDY.

Take half a pound of guiacum-raſpings, three ounces of liquorice, one ounce of tar, 4 ounces of Peruvian bark, and ſix drachms of balſam of Tolu. Boil theſe in eight quarts of river water, until you reduce it to ſix quarts; ſtrain it off as ſoon as poſſible, and give a quart of it milk-warm every day, for three weeks.

During the above, take aloes in powder, two drachms: flowers of benjamin, half a drachm: Æthiops mineral, thirty grains; infuſe the whole in warm ale and give it to the horſe every morning for ten days, keeping him moderately warm.

DISEASES OF THE EYES.

If any accident happen to the eye or eyes of a horſe, from a blow or contuſion, he ſhould be bled plentifully, and kept upon moderate diet.—Should there appear a whitiſh film over the ball or ſight, blow into it with a quill, a ſmall quantity of lapis caliminaris in powder, night and morning: but

but ſhould neither bleeding, nor this outward application prove effectual, take a quarter of a drachm of white vitriol, and mix it with a drachm of lapis caliminaris; reduce theſe into a powder, and blow a very ſmall quantity of it on the film, every morning, which, in about five or ſix days, will intirely remove it.

Should the diſtemper proceed from a cold, or a natural defect in the eye, cauſed by hard riding, groſs feeding, or want of exerciſe, and it ſhould appear ſwelled, cloſed, and ſtreaked with blood, bleed very frequently, which will remove the inflammation, and, without any other aſſiſtance, bring about an entire cure.

If the horſe's eye be naturally defective, and the ſight or chryſtal have ſpots in it, you may deem it incurable; but there are ſome horſes, which have loſt their ſight, and yet preſerve their appearance in ſo perfect a manner, as to render it almoſt impoſſible for the greateſt ſkill and experience to diſcover the blemiſh;—no wonder, therefore, that it ſhould be found ſo difficult to aſcertain the goodneſs or badneſs of a horſe's eyes in general!

To prevent, as much as poſſible, this accident of bad eyes happening to horſes, I would adviſe them not to be fed above the due proportion to their work. Corn, frequently given in large quantities,

tities, is the cauſe of horſes loſing their ſight; as a preſervative they ſhould be bled one quart at leaſt, once a month; unleſs their exerciſes be ſufficient for the evacuation of thoſe humours by perſpiration.—I have known none ſubject to this evil, that have been fed with a proper quantity of ſtraw.—Such are the virtues of ſtraw mixed with the horſes food, that it not only cleanſes, but invigorates the body;—by occaſional ſtraw-diet, horſes are adapted for war, by hay and corn, given in greater proportions, than is, neceſſary, they are only fit for their own dunghills!

CHOLIC AND GRIPES.

SYMPTOMS.

A horſe afflicted with this diſorder is known by his frequently lying down, and rolling inceſſantly, from the acuteneſs and violence of the pain, he ſuffers; he breathes ſhort, which is perceived by the great heaving of his flank.—Cart and coach-horſes are moſtly ſubject to theſe diſorders, from their being more expoſed to ſtand in the weather, by which they are often ſeized with the moſt dangerous coughs and colds, and theſe are generally attended with the bowels being more or leſs affected.

THE CURE.

With regard to the method of curing either the cholic or gripes generally adopted, I cannot, from what I have practiſed and experienced, give it my recommendation. But clyſters may be given with ſafety and efficiency. Bleeding and purging, is the common method, are ſure to debilitate the horſe, without affording him any relief; for the diſorder of the bowels, not ariſing from any diſtemper the blood has contracted, it is contrary to reaſon, to ſuppoſe any means uſed for its purification can avail in removing what has a different cauſe, and a different ſeat in the body.—So excellent are clyſters in all complaints, ariſing from indigeſtion or indiſpoſition of the viſcera, that almoſt in every internal malady of this nature they will be found, if given at proper intervals, moſt ſalutary.

Many perſons have reſorted for a cure of theſe diſorders, to riding or driving their horſes in a violent manner; but the conſideration of a moment would inform them that ſuch a mode muſt agitate, and therefore, inflame their bowels, which are but too much ſo already. Others will rub the belly of the horſe with a ſtick, which is equally pernicious and ineffectual, as riding them violently; —by this means the bowels are frequently bruiſed inſtead

inſtead of being relieved; it is true that gentle friction will give the animal temporary relief; that is if you have his belly rubbed gently with ſtraw, you will find it afford him a little eaſe; but then this is not a radical cure, which nothing will ſo ſoon effect as clyſters, given opportunely and repeatedly. It is neceſſary here to obſerve that, from the horizontal poſition of the horſe, theſe complaints have not thoſe means of natural relief, which they have in man, ariſing from his erect poſition; conſequently theſe diſeaſes are, in general, more ſevere and difficult to cure in horſes, than in human beings; ſo that greater care, patience, and tenderneſs are requiſite towards them for their recovery from theſe terrible diſorders.

REMEDY.

Take a quarter of a pint of thin water-gruel ſweetened with honey, into which put a quarter of a pint of anniſeed, which you may get at any inn or public houſe, and add five or ſix cloves of pepper: give half a pint of this preparation, milk-warm, every three hours to the horſe, until you perceive the diſeaſe is ſomewhat abated, give him likewiſe bran-maſhes tolerably warm, as recommended in ſome of the diſorders before-mentioned. Let him then have as ſoon as poſſible the following

CLYSTER.

CLYSTER.

Take two quarts of water in which tripe has been boiled;—four ounces of olive oil and freſh butter; a handful of camomile flowers; half an ounce of ſenna; two ounces of common ſugar or honey; boil all thoſe together, and then ſtrain the compoſition through a fine ſieve, or coarſe cloth; and give from half to three quarters of a pint tolerably warm.—Repeat this clyſter every three hours, until you find the horſe relieved from his pain.—Let him be kept, during this indiſpoſition, in a large ſtable, well littered with clean ſtraw; be ſure to keep him warm, and take off his halter, in order to let him range at full liberty.

GIDDINESS.

Sometimes a horſe will be ſeized with ſuch a giddineſs as to fall down the moment he comes out of the ſtable into the air. This is chiefly cauſed by a phletoric habit, groſſneſs of the blood, and humours, occaſioned by over feeding, want of proper exerciſe, and being confined too long in a cloſe ſtable.—The ſpirits and circulation being thus rendered torpid and inactive, when they are rouſed by the action of freſh air, the brain is not able

able to endure the impetuofity, which cauſes that ſwimming in the head, you will always find attended with a failure in the limbs;—as children when playing will frequently turn round ſo many times as to cauſe them to be incapable of preſerving themſelves from falling, unleſs they lean or ſupport themſelves by a chair, table, or any other thing which preſents itſelf for their aſſiſtance; ſo are the effects of this giddineſs ſhewn when a horſe is ſeized with it.

This diſorder is rather to be prevented than cured, by giving the horſe moderate food, gentle exerciſe, and at intervals a clyſter, or purgatives *(ſee index at word aloes)*.

SHAKES OR WRENCHES IN THE SHOULDERS.

Young horſes are moſtly liable to ſtrains, and notwithſtanding the greateſt care, they ſtill may happen to the beſt of horſes; when they do, they are moſtly beyond the reach of medicine.—However, the following remedies may be uſed, as they have been known frequently to effect a cure, when the ſtrain or wrench has not been exceſſively

Let

Let him be bled in the plate-vein, and put in his cheft a rowel, well fteeped in the tincture of cantharides; then turn him into a large open ftable, if it be winter, or to grafs, if in fummer: fhould the diforder be not defperately bad, you may try the following ointment, which has proved wonderfully efficacious in fome difeafes of the above nature.

Take of bees-wax, pitch, and common turpentine, each half a pound; of olive-oil one pound; of mutton-fuet half a pound; of oils of turpentine and linfeed, each, four ounces: melt thefe ingredients in an iron ladle feparately; then put them into an earthen pot, in order to incorporate them well together by means of a gentle fire.—Rub the ointment well over the part affected, and, in order to make it penetrate the fkin, hold a hot fire-fhovel before it: repeat this application every two days for a fortnight.

STRAINS, WRENCHES, AND WINDGALLS, FROM THE KNEE TO THE HOOF,

Occafioned by hard Riding, &c.

CURE.

The following fimple and cheap embrocation will be found ferviceable in curing thefe cafualties.

Take

Take of oil of turpentine, double-diſtilled vinegar, and ſpirits of wine, each a gill; but obſerve to mix firſt with the turpentine alone, the whites of two eggs, in order the better to diſſolve them blend the whole together, and rub the part affected with it, night and morning, uſing a flannel wrapper to keep it warm; ſo efficacious is this medicine, that there is ſcarcely a ſtrain, or bruiſe, but it will cure, if the bone be not injured; but ſhould the bone be hurt, it is neceſſary then to foment the part with ſuch common herbs as are uſed on ſuch occaſions: this muſt be done before you embrocate the part.—The beſt manner is to take a piece of double canvaſs uſing a ſtick to each end; then ſteep a piece of flannel in the fomentation—and having wrung it rather dry, by the aid of the canvaſs and ſticks, apply it as hot to the ſtrain, &c. as the horſe can poſſibly bear it, covering it with a horſe-cloth. —Having repeated this application ſeveral times, let the part be rubbed entirely dry, and then bathed with the embrocation twice every day, for three days together: then once a day;—and thus, diſcontinue it, in proportion as the diſeaſe diſappears.—The fomentation may be uſed as frequently, as you think proper, in all caſes where the bone has received any injury; but where the ſinews, muſcles, and nerves are only ſtrained, the embrocation may be found ſufficient;—care muſt be taken that you do not uſe it more than ſix times ſucceſſively, leſt it ſhould bring off ſome of the hair,

hair, to prevent which, apply the opodeldoc till the horſe is cured. (*See index, at word opodeldoc.*

SADDLE-GALL, AND GALLING BETWEEN THE FORE LEGS.

Theſe complaints ariſe from not being circumſpect in keeping the horſe rubbed dry from ſweat, and clean from dirt which he contracts between the fore legs: theſe negligences cauſe the horſe to chafe in thoſe parts.

CURE.

Should the gall in either the back, or the fore legs be recent, nothing will be found better than the white of an egg, ſpread on white-brown paper and then laid on the fore, after it is well cleanſed with brandy and water; but ſhould you be on a journey, and not be able to apply this remedy, you muſt, in ſuch caſe, bathe it with brandy and ſweet-oil, till you arrive where the horſe can have reſt, then uſe the green ointment, made as I ſhall hereafter preſcribe.

THE GREEN OINTMENT.

Take of bees-wax, one ounce; of mutton-ſuet, two ounces; and of verdigreaſe in powder, a quarter

ter of an ounce: melt theſe together, and keep ſtirring them until they are cold: ſoften the whole with ſweet-oil.

THE AUTHOR's SPERMACETI LINIMENT, FOR CRACKED HEELS, &c.

Take of ſpermaceti, four ounces; of yellow wax, one ounce; of Venice turpentine, half an ounce; of verdigreaſe, in fine powder, a quarter of an ounce; of Euphorbium, in fine powder, half an ounce; linſeed-oil, one ounce; (let the wax and ſpermaceti be melted) laſtly, put in the linſeed-oil, turpentine, verdigreaſe, and the Euphorbium, and, when the veſſel is taken off the fire, ſtir it till the whole be cold.

This liniment, applied to cracked heels, ſores, ulcers, or the like, will prove exceedingly ſerviceable.

MANGE, BLOOD-RUNNING ITCH, &c.

CURE.

The cure is as ſimple as the cauſe, and is effected by uſing the following recipe:

Put three ounces of crude mercury into two quarts of boiling water in a ſtone bottle, then put

bladder on your hand, in order to defend it from the effect of the mercury: thus guarded, rub with a ſponge, dipped in this mixture, all over thoſe parts of the body of the horſe, on which the mange or itch appears.—Obſerve to let the mercury ſubſide, before you attempt to uſe the water: two or three ſuch rubbings generally effect a cure; but ſhould they be found inſufficient, a fourth may be reſorted to with ſafety.—Give, at the ſame time, phyſic, as preſcribed, internally, which will greatly accelerate the cure, by cleanſing the body. You may likewiſe give the horſe a table ſpoonful of brimſtone, in a bran-maſh, night and morning; but he muſt not be rubbed more than once a day, and care muſt be had not to touch his eyes, his privities, or any other part, too tender for the corroſive properties of this medicine.—To prevent his imbibing any of the mercury, by licking it off his body, let his head be tied to the manger, in ſuch a manner, as to prevent his having the power of making his mouth ſore.—Having uſed the liquid three days with ſucceſs, mix together ſix drachms of aloes, the ſame quantity of rhubarb, and half a drachm of ginger, all in powder, with ſirup of buckthorn, and liquorice-powder: form the whole into two balls, which conſtitute a doſe.—Give him a ſecond on the third morning after, and another on the ſixth.—The firſt doſe may not purge him, but the ſecond and third moſt certainly will: let his water be luke warm.

It

It would be proper before you begin the application of rubbing him with the mercurial water, to cauſe him to perſpire, by riding half a mile or a mile, on a pace ſufficient to make him ſweat.

The ſecond Remedy.

Take gunpowder, diſſolved in vinegar, and rub the horſe every morning all over his body, particularly his mane and tail; repeat the ſame for a week, giving him three times a day a warm malt-maſh, with a ſmall table ſpoonful of ſulphur, well mixed with the maſh, for ſeven days; at the end of which omit both, and waſh off the powder with ſtrong warm lees of tobacco-water, viz. three pounds boiled in three gallons of water, till half the water is conſumed; repeat this three days, after which dreſs the horſe as uſual.—This remedy, for the mange in dogs, is the beſt I ever knew, provided plenty of boiled milk and bread be given to them during its application.

A third Remedy. (Generally made uſe of in France, and with great Succeſs.)

Take equal proportions—ſay three half pints of turpentine, and three half pints of beer, put them into a bottle, and ſhake them well together; put two halters on the horſe, and faſten him to a poſt or tree, with a quantity of dung ſpread round it, to prevent him from hurting himſelf. Shake the bottle, and with a man on each ſide, rub him well

all over, and quick, particularly if the diſeaſe be very bad; but in three quarters of an hour the pain totally abates, and you may untie the horſe with ſafety.—A malt-maſh ſhould be prepared for him, obſerving he is not to be curried or dreſſed for ſeveral days; after which, waſh the horſe all over with a ſtrong decoction of tobacco-water, as in the SECOND REMEDY, three ſucceſſive mornings, and he will be effectually cured. The French object to this remedy for dogs, but apply it to their horned cattle.

N. B. During the cure, give the veterinary powders for the mange. (*See index, at word mange.*)

BROKEN LEGS.

It is unneceſſary to engage the reader's time with detailing a cure for ſuch accidents; for it is almoſt a phenomenon to effect that of a broken bone in a horſe, ſo as to render him again fit for ſervice.—It is true, I have known a horſe cured, by having been ſlung for three months, and his leg ſplintered and properly bandaged during the whole time; but when the great hazard of his ever being reſtored, ſo as to be fit for ſervice, and the great expence of keeping him uſeleſs, during all this time, are conſidered, it will ſurely appear ſcarcely worth

worth any perſon's while to keep a horſe ſo long an unneceſſary victim of torture. I would, therefore, adviſe him to be ſhot immediately on his meeting with ſuch a caſualty. Should it be a mare, from which you would wiſh to breed, you may then uſe your own diſcretion, by endeavouring to have the bone ſet in the beſt manner poſſible.

A LOCKED-JAW.

The Author, in the courſe of forty years public exerciſes, has loſt, by this dreadful diſeaſe, four of his moſt valuable horſes; the firſt was in the year 1780, in the city of Vienna, by the horſe treading on a piece of a broken bottle, with the off fore-foot. The ſecond was in the year 1788, in the city of Paris, by the horſe running againſt a bar of ſmall ſquare iron (that entered his flank), which a cart was conveying through the ſtreets. The third in the year 1792, in Dublin, by the horſe, in the courſe of his Equeſtrian Exerciſes, treading upon a ruſty twenty-penny nail, which entered the centre of his near fore-foot, about one inch and a half deep. The fourth was in London, by the horſe treading with his off hind-foot on ſome edged tool, ſuppoſed a chiſel; the wound about three quarters of an inch in depth.

The

The Author, not ſatisfied with his own judgement, in the above caſes, called in the aſſiſtance of ſeveral profeſſional men, to deliberate with him on the poſſibility of effecting a cure, but was unſucceſsful, for within nine days they all died.

It will here, perhaps, not be improper to mention the different modes recurred to in the different places. In Vienna, the foot was carefully opened, and the warmeſt vulneraries applied, with the frequent adminiſtration of clyſters, but to no purpoſe. In Paris, the wound was dreſſed by the profeſſors of the Veterinary College, and with the warmeſt balſamics of every ſort, that human wiſdom could deviſe; but the horſe had a very high fever; in conſequence of which, manna, ſirup of roſes, ſal mirabile, &c. were adminiſtered in ſmall doſes, but to no effect. The third, the horſe's foot was opened, entirely round the wound, by myſelf, and burnt alum, vitriol, &c. poured in; after which, a plentiful uſe of digeſtives was reſorted to, alſo without ſucceſs, for the horſe died within eight days. The fourth, the part round the wound was laid open, with the greateſt care, and a ſmall hot iron preſſed to the bottom of the wound; after which, the beſt digeſtives were carefully applied, and the horſe was immediately given a ſtrong doſe of Æthiop's mineral: this method failed; he died within nine days.

I ſhould

I ſhould think myſelf highly indebted to any gentleman, who would have the goodneſs to furniſh me with an effectual cure for this dreadful, this fatal, diſeaſe in the horſe, as the numbers, which I have known to have died of the locked-jaw, in the army, &c. are beyond my calculation.

A CLYSTER FOR AN ACUTE FEVER.

In a common emollient decoction, made with an ounce and a half of polychreſt, mixed with herbs, to which you will add fennel-ſeed, pounded and boiled with them, and two handfuls of whole barley; after having ſtrained the whole, you are to add, of the oil of roſes and of violets, each four ounces, and two ounces of benedicte, or three of caſſia; thus prepared, the clyſter will deterge the bowels, while it comforts them; it would not be amiſs to rub a horſe that has a fever *againſt the grain*, for the purpoſe of more effectually opening the pores, and expelling the fuliginous, ſmoky vapours, that exiſt under the ſkin, thus promoting perſpiration; give alſo the fever-powders. (*See index, word fever.*)

I have known this medicine prove of infinite utility to ſome horſes; to others, it was not given with equal ſucceſs: but when I find a horſe continue to have a violent fever, from four to ſix days, without

without intermiſſion, I give myſelf no farther trouble about him, judging him to be incurable; for I have not known any to recover, after having been ſo long afflicted with a fever, which ends, I repeat, by totally conſuming the liver.

GOLDEN SULPHUR OF ANTIMONY.

Boil the regulus of antimony, with crude ditto, two pounds; of tartar one pound; and of fine nitre half a pound; for the purpoſe of procuring the ſcoria. The regulus is found to be of great utility in medicine, but in this particular inſtance it is reſorted to, merely to obtain the ſcoria, in which the golden ſulphur, which we are ſearching after, is contained. You are, therefore, to ſeparate the ſcoria, and put it into boiling water; ſtir it frequently—it will diſſolve—take it off the fire, let it ſettle, and pour the cleareſt part off at pleaſure.

Boil, in other water, tartar in powder; ſtir it often, and make it diſſolve; take the water you poured off firſt, and throw the latter into it by ſlow degrees; you will find it to emit a diſagreeable, fœtid ſmell, and a browniſh powder will be found at the bottom, which powder is the *golden ſulphur of antimony*; let it dry on brown paper, and keep it for uſe: the doſe is to be from half an ounce to an ounce, mixed with double the quantity of very fine

fine wheaten flour; diſſolve the whole well in a pint of wine; let it infuſe a whole night, and give it to the horſe every morning, taking care to keep him bridled two hours before, and three after, and continue ſo doing fifteen or twenty days; thus, without any other remedy, the animal will ſoon recover.

I have blended the flour with the golden ſulphur, that the latter ſhould not precipitate to the bottom of the veſſel, and that it ſhould adhere to the wine, in order to be the more eaſily ſwallowed.

This remedy is not a purgative for horſes, it is called the PANACEA, and is well worthy of the name, by the frequent occaſions, on which I have witneſſed its efficacy, when adminiſtered to the human ſpecies. It operates on horſes by perſpiration, purifies the blood, cools the bowels: diſſipates noxious waters and obſtructions; opens the paſſages, and increaſes, to a wonderful degree, the natural heat of the animal; it alſo cures the farcy, the mange, and the cough; it prevents cattle from being broken-winded, nor is it leſs ſalutary for men, than for horſes: on trial, you will find it well deſerves to be conſidered as a CATHOLICON, or, univerſal remedy.

This medicine is too coſtly to be given to horſes of inferior quality, but it would be greatly criminal to neglect even theſe.

FOR

FOR A HORSE GREATLY FATIGUED.

Bleed your horſe in the neck, half a pint; the next day give him a clyſter, with an ounce and a half of polychreſt; and the day following give him half a pound of olive-oil in a quart of milk, keeping him bridled two hours before and two hours after; in four days, (the day he took the oil included) give him the following

POTION.

Take, of electuary catholicon, one ounce; two drachms of treacle; of liquid conſerve of red roſes, one ounce; of caſſia, one ounce; of liquorice juice, half an ounce; of ſenna in powder, half an ounce; two drachms of ſcammony, prepared with ſulphur; of anniſeed and cummin, each a drachm: mix the whole with a pint of white wine, and give it to the horſe, who is to be kept bridled two hours before, and four after the remedy has been applied; if the animal has not been much purged, continue the clyſters. Give him wet bran, good hay, and half a pound of honey, diſſolved in hot water, after which mix it with the water he drinks night and morning, for his common beverage.—This done, allow him ſome reſt, in order to ſee the effects of the medicine; if you perceive no great amendment, you muſt reſort to the golden ſulphur of antimony, and to clyſters once more; keeping

keeping the horſe warm by an extra rug, in order to promote perſpiration, giving him as much reſt as poſſible; but, on no account, keep him in a ſmall ſtable, air being neceſſary in this complaint.

VETERINARY POWDERS FOR ACUTE FEVERS.

Take of antimony, finely powdered, and of ſhavings of harthorn, half a pound, incorporate them well together; put them in a crucible, and place it in the centre of a ſtrong fire (melting heat) until the whole is red hot—take it from the fire and let it cool—after which, break the crucible, and powder the medicine very fine. The doſe for horſes, in acute fevers, is twenty-five grains every ſix hours, given in half a pint of water-gruel; ten doſes are ſufficient within ſixty hours, and if the ſymptoms ſhould not abate, increaſe the doſe to thirty grains every four hours, to the extent of ten doſes; allow an interval of one day, and if the pulſe be moderate, continue the powders, night and morning, twenty-five grains, until the horſe is well.—Give him, for his common beverage, water, ſweetened with honey, or treacle; ſhould the horſe purge very much, take ten grains from each doſe of the powders. If the fever is violent, bleed thrice, one pint, every ſix hours.

hours.—If it continues ſo for five days, give yourſelf no more trouble about him; in this time, his liver will be conſumed, and he will be only fit for the dunghill.

VETERINARY POWDERS, EXCEEDINGLY SERVICEABLE IN THE FARCY, STRANGLES, VIES, MANGE, AND ALL IMPURITIES.

Take Æthiop's mineral, made without fire, half a pound; of crude antimony, one pound, and mix them into a fine powder. Give the horſe two drachms, night and morning, in half a pint of water-gruel, ſweetened with honey, until the cure is completed. While the horſe is taking the medicine, linſeed mixed with the oats will be found exceedingly ſerviceable in moſt of thoſe diſeaſes.

VETERINARY EGYPTIAN OINTMENT.

Take of verdigreaſe four ounces; of double diſtilled vinegar, ſix ounces; of honey, one pound; put them into a pipkin, that will ſtand the fire, and let them boil gently to a duſky colour; add, towards the latter end, roche-alum, and ſal ammoniac,

niac, in fine powder, of each half an ounce, and make them into an ointment *according to art.*

VETERINARY TAR OINTMENT.

Take ten ounces of tar, and four ounces of yellow wax, cut ſmall; put them into a glazed pipkin, that will ſtand the fire, and let them incorporate over a gentle heat.

SWELLED LEGS, CRACKED HEELS, OR WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED, THE GREASE.

Theſe diſorders may be attributed to violent and frequent exerciſe, improper management in grooming,* feeding, &c.

* Nothing is more injurious than waſhing horſes feet and legs, particularly in cold weather, and leaving them *wet.*—Were grooms to let *their* hands dry without wiping them, after being waſhed, they would ſoon be convinced of the abſolute neceſſity of rubbing their horſes legs dry at all times; the more ſo, if the leaſt appearance of inflammation, cracks, &c. ſhould be perceptible.

I have to remark on this ſubject, that, in the courſe of forty years practice, I have known more diſeaſes in the legs proceed from an unpardonable neglect of this nature, than from the bad habit of body of the animal.

With

With regard to the mode of cure, I am of opinion, that all external remedies, poultices, ointments, waſhings, &c. are ineffectual, and that nothing will ſo ſpeedily relieve this diſtemper and prevent its recurrence, as alteratives, and a proper regard to diet during their being adminiſtered, keeping the wound clean, &c. Poultices, though they may give the horſe temporary eaſe, increaſe the diſorder, by drawing down what humours are in the body to the parts affected.

The moſt effectual remedy, that I know of, for this diſorder, is as follows: put your horſe to feed on the beſt hay poſſible, about fourteen pounds per day, and as much good wheaten ſtraw as he can moderately eat: give him half a peck of bran, three times a day, moiſtened with water—add two tea ſpoonfuls of ſulphur, each time, to the quantity. During this regimen of diet, take three drachms of aloes, two ditto of rhubarb; a quarter of ditto of ginger, all in fine powder; diſſolve the whole in a pint of hot table-beer, or ale; give this mixture, when cool, every morning, with the aſſiſtance of a horn, or bottle, keeping the horſe half an hour without eating before and after the doſe.—Repeat the ſame until he purges moderately; ſuppoſe, four, or ſix days; then omit the draught until the purging is diminiſhed, for one or two days; (at the ſame time not neglecting the ſulphur and maſh, as deſcribed) after which repeat the draught

draught fix or eight days more, or until he again purges.—You will then omit the draught for three or four days, as before, and proceed in this manner until an alteration for the better be difcovered: then, in fuch cafe, give the draught only every third, fifth, or feventh, until he is completely cured: fhould the heels be very bad, and fores deep, apply the Egyptian ointment one day, and the tar ointment the other: (*See index, at word Egyptian and tar ointments, &c.*) bathing the fore with a little arquebufade water; a little tow and a roller of canvafs will affift in keeping the dreffing proper.

During the cure, gentle exercife, attentive grooming, and hand-rubbing the fwelled legs, will greatly affift in promoting his recovery. You may, on the horfe's convalefcence, give a few oats, with carrots fliced among them; the water, in order the more to haften the cure, may be made moderately fweet with honey, or treacle, namely, half a pound diffolved in a quart of boiling water; after which pour it into a pail of cold water, and give it every night and morning, by way of diet-drink.—I have known fome horfes to be entirely free from this difeafe, ftrictly following the above remedy, in the courfe of twelve days—others in a month: if the horfe is turned into a large ftable, or ftall, well littered, it may induce him to lie down, confequently, will expedite the cure, as will alfo a little grafs, if in the fummer months.

I have

I have here to notice that aloes will have a better effect when adminiſtered in ſmall quantities, than in the uſual way: giving it, thus, it will ſtrengthen while it cleanſes the inteſtines, it will purge the brain, and reſiſt the corruption of humours; this is the reaſon why it is ſo much uſed in pills, namely, the beſt ſuccotrine: for my part, I know no better purgative, nor one ſo friendly to the nature of horſes.

The following Diologue, between the late Sir Richard Jebb and Myſelf, will illuſtrate this Fact.

Sir RICHARD JEBB. Pray Mr. Aſtley, what do you conceive to be the beſt purge for a horſe, and what has been your practice.

Mr. ASTLEY. On account of the horizontal poſition of the horſe's body, Sir Richard, I have been always careful to moderate ſuch purgatives, as I conceived would produce little or no inflammation in the inteſtines; and having myſelf, for a ſeries of years, taken eight grains, occaſionaly, of Ruff's pills, (a preparation of aloes, myrrh, and ſaffron) much to my ſatisfaction, I turned my thoughts that way, and tried various experiments to aſcertain their true quantity and effect, and I found that aloes for horſes was invaluable, if given under

under four drachms and repeatedly until the defired effect was produced, and this inftead of eight drachms or upwards, which quantity, adminiftered within four days, has been found for fome horfes to be too powerful. To correct the aloes, and as a fubftitute for the myrrh and faffron, I have made ufe of rhubarb, with a fmall quantity of ginger, which I found completely anfwered my purpofe; for, from being convinced of the efficacy of the aloes upon myfelf, and the good ftate of health I enjoy, notwithftanding the moft violent exercife, which my profeffion naturally caufed, I was fatisfied that I was fufficiently authorized to try the fame on my horfe.

Sir RICHARD. You are perfectly right: it did not ftrike me fo forcibly, as it has done you, with regard to the horizontal pofition of the horfe: pray, in what difeafes do you generally give the aloes?

Mr. ASTLEY. Whenever my horfes have been taken from grafs, and more particularly from the ftraw-yard, I have been in the habit of giving the aloes in fmall dofes of three drachms, every other day, for eight days, or a fortnight, according to the age and conftitution: I have likewife given the fame for all eruptions of the blood, difeafes of the eyes, &c. and, more particularly for botts and worms, to horfes that have been

hard-worked and kept upon bad hay, and for the diſeaſe commonly called the greaſe, I know of nothing better.—As I kept myſelf in health and good appetite by taking Ruff's pills, when I found myſelf heavy and loaded, ſo I kept my horſes in health, by giving the aloes in ſmall doſes, once or twice a month, or whenever I found occaſion.

Sir RICHARD. I believe you are right; but what fluids did you give while you were adminiſtering the aloes in ſmall doſes?

Mr. ASTLEY. I am a great admirer of honey, having taken it in gruel for a number of years, and ſo convinced am I of its excellence, that I ſhall continue it.—I, therefore, Sir Richard, when I adminiſter the aloes to my horſes, give them half a pound of honey, diſſolved in a quart of hot water, which is then thrown into a pail of water for their ordinary drink; but when honey could not be obtained, I have ſubſtituted treacle, and I have found the higheſt benefits from both, when traveling long journeys, ſuch as to Paris, Dublin, &c. particularly in cold weather. I would now be happy if you would give me your opinion on the propriety or impropriety of my conduct.

Sir RICHARD. Indeed, Mr. Aſtley, your obſervations on this point are, in every way, ſo congenial

congenial with my own ideas, as to render my opinion unneceſſary, being convinced that you have acted both judiciouſly and cautiouſly.—Great ſkill and dexterity are required in the management of aloes to cauſe it to operate, as an alterative; but if I muſt give advice to the veterinary ſurgeon, it is, never to loſe ſight of moderation.—Will you name the diſeaſes for which you have given aloes with ſucceſs?

Mr. ASTLEY. I adminiſter it in all ſcorbutic caſes; in the blood-running itch; in the mange; in the farcy; for old ſores, ulcers, and the like; cracked heels; ſtrangles; in the mad ſtaggers; and, laſtly, in the glanders, with the addition of Æthiop's mineral, (*vide glanders*). Indeed, Sir Richard, I am partial to aloes, viz. the moſt tranſparent poſſible, from its being the leaſt active in quality, and I know of no chronical diſeaſe, to which horſes are liable, in which aloes, given in ſmall doſes, can be injurious.

Sir RICHARD. I approve much of your method; long practice and experience are ſufficient authority.

The following are three Receipts, perhaps the moſt valuable that ever appeared in any Publicacion of this Nature:

FIRST, A VETERINARY GENERAL RESTORATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES,

THAT HAVE BEEN RIDDEN HARD, ARE SUBJECT TO A COUGH, &c.

Take of linſeed in fine powder, eight ounces; of carraway-ſeed, cummin-ſeed, anniſeed, fenugreek, carthamus, and coltsfoot, in ditto, three ounces each; of liquorice root, in ditto, eight ounces; of flowers of benjamin, one ounce; flower of ſulphur one ounce; mix the whole well together. Give the horſe two ounces of this powder, in a quarter of a peck of good malt, made into a maſh; and this, excluſive of his uſual quantity of corn, twice a day, for a fortnight, or three weeks together. This is, perhaps, one of the beſt reſtoratives for horſes, after a violent day's hunting, that the ingenuity of man can deviſe—it removes all obſtructions of the bowels, increaſes reſpiration, and adds vigour and ſtrength to the whole frame, cures chronic diſeaſes, ariſing from over-heated blood, ſuch as colds, coughs, inward decays, and, in ſhort, prevents all ſuch diſeaſes.

SECOND,

SECOND, A VETERINARY OPODELDOC,

FOR

Strained Shoulders, Wrenches in the Haunches, every Kind of Bruiſe, Swelling, Contuſion, and the like; whether from Falls, Blows, or ſimilar Accidents; for refreſhing and fortifying the Legs of a Horſe, when fatigued by long Journeys, or when Horſes are ſubject to Rheumatic and Paralytic Complaints; and I am here free to confeſs, that, in the extenſive Courſe of my Practice, I have never found a more efficacious, nor a more general Medicine for the above-mentioned Accidents, Diſeaſes, &c. not only as proper to be uſed for a Horſe, but as being of aſtoniſhing Virtue when aptly adminiſtered to the human Species of all Ages, and both Sexes, where Nature affords no Nouriſhment to the Part afflicted.

When horſes have been ſtrained in the ſhoulder, and neglected, from the duration of ſuch complaint, and through extreme pain the part becomes withered, almoſt void of feeling, and, in a great meaſure, motionleſs; ſo that it may, with much propriety, be ſaid to be a dead member, attached to a living body; and unleſs a powerful ALKALI be adminiſtered, for the purpoſe of extinguiſhing this unnatural heat, the part affected will be for ever incapable

incapable of reſuming its primitive and original functions—this happens to horſes that have received a hurt in the foot, which prevents them from ſetting it to the ground for a month or two. If the hurt be before, it is the ſhoulder, if behind, it is the haunch, which is thus withered and conſumed, and this, on account of its having been too long deprived of nutriment, and debarred from its due exerciſe, ſo infinitely conducive to natural warmth.

People may conceive that I err againſt the firſt principles, by attempting to reſtore animation to a part ſo dreadfully affected—but in fact, it is otherwiſe, and it will be found that the affected member ſtill retains ſufficient heat, when aided by ſome powerful alkali, to recover that which was loſt, and to reſtore it to its former energy and vigour; and whoever inſpects this method with a ſcientific eye will immediately diſcover that it reſts on the broad baſis of philoſophy.

RECIPE FOR MAKING THE VETERINARY OPODELDOC OINTMENT.

Take of dried roots of marſhmallows, comfrey, gentian, long birthwort, angelica, of each one ounce and a half; of ladies' mantle, mouſe-ear, adder's tongue, ſage, lavender, ground-ivy, a handful; of juniper-berries, cummin, caſtor, camphire and

and garden muſtard ſeed, of each one ounce, reduced into powder; put the whole into a glaſs veſſel and pour thereon one quart of ſpirits of wine; cover it with the top of an alembeck, that has no aperture to it: this veſſel is admirably calculated to make the ingredients blend properly together. To prove your ſpirits of wine, put a ſmall quantity of gun-powder into a ſpoon, filled with the ſaid ſpirits, ſet fire to the liquor, which, if genuine, will cauſe an explofion of the powder inſtantaneouſly to take place.

In order to make up the medicine, if you have no glaſs-veſſel, make uſe of a thin retort with a long neck, the two-thirds of which muſt be empty when all the ingredients are in; in the mouth of the retort, place another ſmall one with the bottom upwards—this is called a meeting veſſel, that thus the ingredients may mix together in the moſt perfect manner; cover the joints of the retort with thick paper, which rub over with the white of an egg; confine the whole with a thread, and let the materials undergo the proceſs of fire, as follows: place your retort in the exact centre of a boiler, ſuſpended, and ſo fixed as not to move backwards nor forwards; put ſome ſtraw between the bottom of the retort and the boiler, for the purpoſe of keeping them about two fingers breadth aſunder; this part of the proceſs is to laſt ten hours, during eight of which the water is to be ſo warm,

warm, as ſcarcely to allow you to keep your finger in it; and during the two remaining hours the heat muſt be increaſed, but not ſo as to cauſe it to boil; by this method the ingredients, contained in the retort, will diſſolve, blend together, and completely unite; the ſpirits of wine will attract and aſſume the tincture of the various ſimples, in which their ſanative qualities are principally contained.

The ſpirits of wine having thus attracted the tincture of the roots, of the powders, and of the vulnerary herbs, let the whole cool, ſtrain it well through a linen cloth, put back the ſpirits into the retort, as before, add thereto a pound of mottled caſtile ſoap, cut into thin ſlices, and put the retort again into the boiler, till the ſoap ſhall be ſo incorporated with the ſpirits of wine, that the whole may form an ointment: you muſt then take your retort out of the boiler, and let its contents cool: it is in this ſoap that the alkali, which I have mentioned, is contained; it is this alkali that is to conſume and deſtroy, in fact, a real fire, which is devouring the ſhoulder, &c.

If you have minutely attended to the mode I have preſcribed for making this ſalutary ointment, you will find it neither too thick nor too thin; and the better to aſcertain whether you have perfectly ſucceeded in the proceſs, rub a little of it

on

on your hand; if it leave behind it a GREENISH hue, though the natural colour of the ointment be BROWN, then, and only then, you may be ſure you have acted agreeably to my inſtructions.

To apply this valuable and intrinſically excellent medicine with effect, the injured part muſt firſt be well chafed by rubbing it properly with flannel; after which the ointment is to be put on and rubbed into the ſkin; repeat the application ſeven or eight times, not omitting, at each time, to rub in the ointment with good ſpirits of wine, which is to be applied gradually and rubbed in by regular degrees, that the ointment may penetrate thoroughly —a gill of ſpirits of wine to be conſumed at each application; if it ſhould raiſe a lather while the ointment is rubbing in, you are not to diſcontinue till you have entirely exhauſted the quantity of ſpirits above-mentioned.

The opodeldoc is to be uſed cold, and it is of a nature ſo extremely penetrative that, in one application, the whole of the ointment, compoſed agreeably to my method, might be exhauſted; but infinite care is to be taken to employ it with becoming moderation, each time, that it may aſſiſt the natural heat in viviſying the affected member, and in reſtoring it to its wonted tone and native vigour.

The

The opodeldoc, as has been already ſtated, has been found of almoſt general utility, when adminiſtered to the human ſpecies.

I have particularly experienced its excellent effects on a horſe of mine, to which, during a very long excurſion, I allowed no very extraordinary repoſe; it is true, he was led by one of my people, but it is equally ſo that, in a ſhort time, by the aid of this ointment ALONE, he recovered his accuſtomed ſtrength and vivacity.

Should you find it neceſſary to apply the opodeldoc to very fleſhy parts; for inſtance, to the ſhoulder, &c. before the part is dry, and before the application can have produced the wiſhed-for effect, you are to repeat it: indeed, it would not be amiſs to anoint it one day, and the next, to be careful in rubbing the ointment in well with the ſpirits of wine, as I have already directed; and ſo on in uninterrupted ſucceſſion for ſixteen or eighteen days.

There are thouſands of people ready to vouch for the efficacy of this medicine: ſeveral coach and ſaddle horſes, (whoſe ſhoulders were entirely decayed and dried up, in conſequence of having been neglected, after having received an injury of the kind before ſpecified,) who were as lame, as can poſſibly be conceived, were radically cured by it,

it, proved uſeful to their owners, and never after experienced the ſmalleſt inconvenience from the former complaint;—but you are to take particular care that, for a month, or more, the horſe be not worked at all; and after that ſpace of time, that he be only walked about for a quarter of an hour, the firſt day; then, by degrees, to take more exercife, in order that the injured part may be more effectually reſtored.

People, who incautiouſly work their cattle too ſoon, not only renew the complaint, but render all further attempts to effect a cure impoſſible.

The ointment will not injure a hair on the decayed ſhoulder, &c.—it is of infinite efficacy in ſprained legs, in ſtrengthening the limbs of horſes, to thoſe that are apt to ſtumble; I have witneſſed ſuch aſtoniſhing cures by the application of the opodeldoc-ointment, that I do not heſitate to recommend it moſt ſtrenuouſly to thoſe, who are fond of horſes—and even for the phyſical ſyſtem of man, I adviſe it, having, in various inſtances, found the greateſt benefit from its effects, as well as from the following Veterinary Arquebuſade.

VETE-

VETERINARY ARQUEBUSADE

For horſes that have received wounds, whether from muſkets, ſwords, or ſharper inſtruments, of whatever kind, or that are ſtaked in leaping, torn in any direction; broken in the knees, &c.; alſo for ſwellings, bruiſes, and contuſions of the legs, or body; cuts in any direction, depth, width, or extent, even when the members are divided, particularly during a campaign, or accidents when exerciſing—nothing will be found more effectual, in ſuch caſes, than the arquebuſade, as follows:

The Author's Manner of Making his Veterinary Arquebuſade.

Take leaves of the greater and leſſer comfrey, cut ſmall, of each two handfuls; birthwort, ſoapwort, and galangal, of each three drachms; zedoary, cut ſmall, half an ounce: pound the whole, but not too fine; crabs eyes, four ounces, alſo powdered fine; put the whole into a new pot, to which, add four pints of the cleareſt and beſt white wine; cover the pot with the utmoſt care, and let it infuſe two days in a ſand-heat; after which, place it on a moderate fire for one day; then boil it for half an hour—ſtrain it off, accord-

ing

ing to art, and, when cool, draw off the clear part and cork it up in a bottle for uſe. This excellent medicine cures wounds in general.

If the horſe be inclined to fever, or his pulſe beat quick, adminiſter a clyſter (*ſee index, at word clyſter*) every four or ſix hours, till it operates; but be careful not to give him any arquebuſade to drink, for, being compoſed of warm ſimples, it would add very conſiderably to the heat; but again, it occurs not unfrequently that a horſe, though very ſeverely wounded, has no fever; in ſuch caſe, the arquebuſade may be given, a gill every day, with the aſſiſtance of a horn or bottle.

Among the natives of Germany, Switzerland, and France, a much inferior medicine is in great and general repute; the ſuperior arquebuſade, made and recommended by the Author, is aſtoniſhingly efficacious in all caſes above-mentioned; and when ſymptoms of fever appear, he earneſtly recommends bran-maſhes, and water-gruel, ſweetened with honey, having found the higheſt benefit from them.

EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION.

THE ſcience of horſemanſhip, as it relates to war-manœuvres, is of infinite utility in the field of honour: this is a fact every General Officer will allow. It is an exerciſe highly conducive to health, and has ſuch a variety of advantages attached to it, that princes have deigned to make it their ſtudy in all ages, and almoſt in every clime. Different countries have their peculiar ſyſtems, but that ſquadron, though inferior in number, which has adopted the beſt, has the faireſt proſpect in the field: often it has happened, and many can teſtify the ſame, that a battle has been won by the ſuperior diſcipline of the cavalry or loſt where it has failed.

To diſcover the capacity of the MANEGE horſe, naturally a friend to man, and to employ that capacity in the way the moſt advantageous, is the chief end the Author has in view; but to arrive at perfection in any art or ſcience at once is contrary to the nature of things; happy, however, will he feel himſelf, if he can contribute to the

the completion of a ſyſtem of ſuch national utility, ſo noble and manly in its nature, and ſo peculiarly beneficial in its effects.

The intention of adding the following ſketches (of various airs*) is to convey a farther idea of what the horſe may be inſtructed to perform in the *manege*; proving the powers and ſagacity of that animal, and the ability of the Equeſtrian Profeſſor, &c.

* DEFINITION OF THE WORD, AIR.—The rider teaches his horſe a variety of actions, either for pleaſure or for ſelf-defence, &c. Theſe are the *peſade*, the *croupade*, the *balotade*, the *cabriole*, the *courbette*, the *terre-à-terre*, the *pirouette*, and the *piaffe*; ſome low and ſome more lofty flights; all theſe ACTIONS, are called AIRS—deriyed, from the act of riſing off the ground into the air, when horſes perform any of the above-mentioned actions. In the execution of this part of Equeſtrian Education, promptitude, and quickneſs of thought are requiſites worthy the attention of KINGS, PRINCES, and NOBLES; but above all, of ſoldiers in action: of this ſtrong aſſertion I have witneſſed the moſt incontrovertible proofs, as well with reſpect to the OLD as to the NEW ſchool, amongſt the former I beg leave to mention the following perſonages:—Prince Ferdinand—the Duke of Brunſwick—Lord Granby—Lord Frederick Cavendiſh—Lord Cornwallis—Sir Frederick Evylin—Sir George Howard—General Conway—Colonel Beckwith—Colonel Harvey—Colonel Frazer—Colonel Gun—General Ainſlie—General Sir William Erſkine—and my ever to be lamented and worthy friend, the Hero of Aboukir, General Sir Ralph Abercromby—General Luckner—General Fritag, &c. (The names of the illuſtrious characters of the modern ſchool, and thoſe omitted in the old, ſhall appear in the ſecond volume.)

PESADE.

PESADE.

To prepare the horſe for this action, his ſhoulders muſt be ſuppled both ways; he muſt be thrown on his haunches, and acquire a loſty head (as for ſingle combat); all this muſt be done in the circle.

The *peſade* is the movement performed when a horſe riſes his fore-feet, and immediately bends them up towards his body, without moving thoſe behind: the profeſſor has to throw all the weight of the horſe on his haunches, in order that it may be raiſed more or leſs in perfect *cadence*.

The *peſade* is the firſt leſſon: indeed, I conſider it as the ground-work of the following airs; but great precaution is neceſſary to render the horſe thoroughly obedient to the hand, the *appui*, and the heel. Light leſſons, in the beginning; moderation and rewards in the circle; while exerciſing round the SINGLE PILLAR; againſt the wall; and between the TWO PILLARS, will effect wonders.

CROUPADE.

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Sketch of the Pesade

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Sketch of the Croupade

CROUPADE.

The horſe leaps into the air with all his feet off the ground at one and the ſame time, and without ſtretching out thoſe behind: by an attention to this action, much good might reſult to the cavalry: and here I will relate a manœuvre, to which I often had recourſe in 1761, and at other periods of the ſeven years war. I inſtructed my horſe to ſtrike an object, or objects, at the will of the rider, within a given diſtance, before, behind, or together; and neceſſity furniſhed me with the idea.

In patroling, a ſoldier ſometimes wants a guide, and gentle means often prove ineffectual to induce a peaſant to quit his bed, at the dead of the night, for the accommodation of others—to diſmount for the purpoſe of procuring admittance into a houſe, at ſuch a time, barred and bolted within, and perhaps in an enemy's country, would be dangerous. I knew my duty, and, ere this, my horſe knew his. On approaching the door, I cauſed him to ſtrike it with his fore-feet; and if this did not anſwer my purpoſe, (for it would ſometimes fail,)—I faced him about, when with his croup he would break the door in pieces: this he would accompliſh in a few moments, to the ſurpriſe and terror of the inhabitants; on the other hand, when upon the defenſive, no perſon could approach me without danger; and when on the offenſive, and animated at my pleaſure, to the higheſt pitch, he would ſtrike in every direction, and clear his way!

BALOTADE.

This action, which requires much attention and ſkill in the profeſſor, may be conſidered as a key to the *cabriole*. The horſe being now foreſhortened, well on his haunches, and every way obedient, is inſtructed to riſe forward ſomewhat higher than in the *croupade*; and, at the moment he has drawn up his fore-feet, (as in the act of leaping,) a ſtroke from the *chambriere*, or a touch of the ſpur-ſtick, at his croup, cauſes him to ſtrike with his hindermoſt feet, ſufficiently only to ſhew his ſhoes. This action may be ſtyled a half-*cabriole*. The general practice is to teach the *balotade* in hand, or between the TWO PILLARS, and when advanced in this leſſon, a light weight is placed on his back: but to perform *balotades* well, the horſe muſt be accuſtomed to the rider, and the rider to the horſe.* The *appui* muſt be ſure, and the aids be delicate.

CABRIOLE

* To prove the utility of well-trained horſes to the army, it may not be improper to mention the following circumſtance:—In the year 1762, when the 15th Light Dragoons were in Weſtphalia, a great number of recruits, and young horſes, were attached to the regiment, both were wanted for ſpecial ſervice; and an experiment was tried to mount the young men on the old horſes, and the old men on the young horſes; ſeveral bold days took place in conſequence, and anſwered tolerably well; but the regiment being called upon to attack an out-poſt of French infantry, who giving their fire, the young horſes inſtantly turned tail, nor could they be brought back to the charge. The young men, though mounted on the old horſes, being ignorant of the ſword-exerciſe, and of the proper uſe of the bridle-hand, could not force the enemy's line; of courſe the old men regained their horſes. This may do very well for numbers on a hill, but for actual ſervice it will not anſwer.

Horſes

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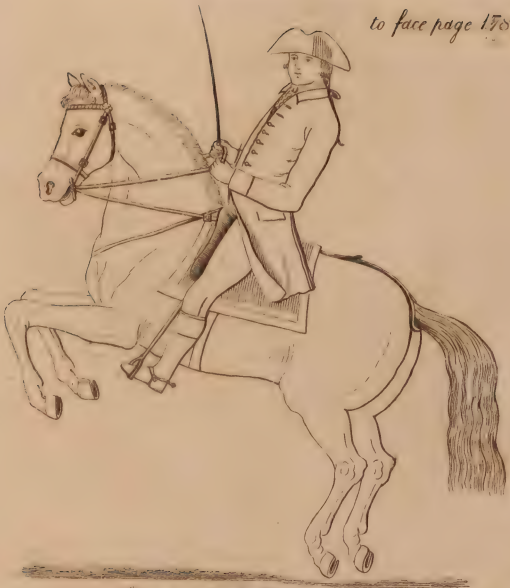

Sketch of the Balotade

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Sketch of the Cabriole

CABRIOLE.

From the *balotade* is drawn the *cabriole*, conſidered as one of the moſt difficult actions to be performed by the horſe, he being, for a time, ſuſpended, as it were, in the air: great ſkill is requiſite in the profeſſor, as well as in the choice of horſes, adapted to ſuch performance, which muſt be lively, active, and of a proportionate ſtrength: by means of the *cabriole*, perſons engaged in ſingle combat, often obtain a great ſuperiority over their opponents, not acquainted with this excellent manœuvre, and with the neceſſary *aids*.

Horſes every way complete for war exerciſes are in value beyond calculation. I have known ſome of the old and experienced Generals purchaſe ſuch well-dreſſed horſes at any price. Furthermore, I have witneſſed in the ſeven years war, while a ſcarcity of accompliſhed military horſes prevailed, frequent application to be made by Prince Ferdinand, Lord Granby, my old and intimate acquaintance General Luckner, &c. to the Quarter and Riding-Maſters of the Britiſh Army, then in Weſtphalia, in order to purchaſe THEIR horſes; one in particular, the beſt war horſe I ever mounted, was the property of Quarter-Maſter Henry Richards of the 15th Light Dragoons, and, I believe the oldeſt ſoldier in the army.

My worthy friend, Richards, had purchaſed the horſe of a farmer at Saliſbury, for twenty-five guineas, prior to the regiment going to Germany, and he ſold him to General Luckner, for four hundred ducats, two years after. I was alſo preſent when Lord Granby offered the General ſix hundred ducats for him. The veteran chief, however, was not to be caught by gold, knowing that, in a great meaſure, his life depended on the excellence of his horſe. I further recollect, that Lord Brome, now MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, (then Aid-de-Camp to the Marquis of Granby,) had as good horſes as any in the Britiſh Army; but, I ſuppoſe, like General Luckner, he knew their value.

THE COURBETTE.

A horſe that can *peſade* and *croupade* well may be placed between the TWO PILLARS; there ſtill more thrown on his haunches, and raiſed before, rather higher than in the two foregoing airs; which is effected thus—the profeſſor aids him forward with two ſmall whips, while an aſſiſtant, with the *chambriere* at his croup, encourages him to bring his hindermoſt legs well under, and to ſupport his body in the action of, what the Author terms, foreſhortening. Many horſemen conceive, that there is not much difficulty in inſtructing the horſe in this AIR; but practice will convince them to the contrary. The horſe, capable of performing a good *courbette*, may be conſidered as far advanced in *terre-à-terre*, *demi-voltes*, and *pirouette*; but it is neceſſary that he ſhould become very expert, and his action eaſy in the *courbette*, between the PILLARS, before he is mounted.

THE

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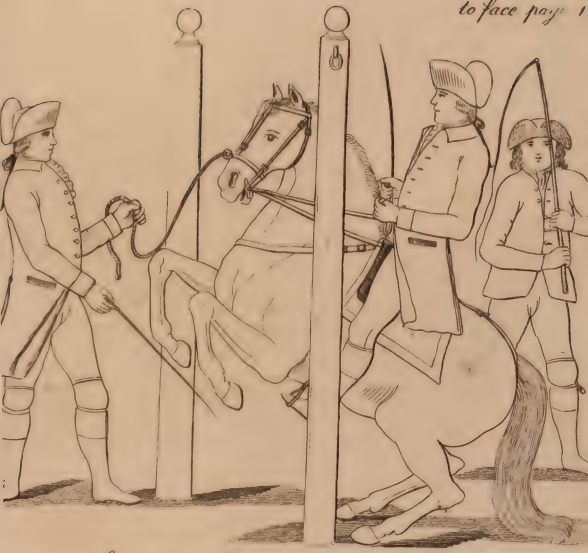

Sketch of the Courbette

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Sketch of the Terre-à-Terre

THE TERRE-A-TERRE.

Previous to any attempt being made to bring a horſe to *terre-à-terre*, he ſhould be perfected in the *peſade*, *croupade*, and *courbettes*, and not unacquainted with the *voltes*. He ſhould be well ſuppled in the circle, but with judgement; for his croup, at no time, muſt gain upon the centre or given ground, you wiſh to obtain.—In every air the horſe ſhould be well together, particularly in thoſe in which his ſhoulders ſhould have a poſition more forward than his croup, in the proportion of about two-ſevenths.

Profeſſors have wiſely obſerved that, in *terre à terre*, the horſe cannot, in reaſon, be too much foreſhortened—this action may be performed in a circle, right or left—in a ſquare, right or left—and on as many ground lines as the profeſſor may fancy, either with head or croup to ſuch lines. It is a kind of cumpreſſed gallop, in an oblique direction, with the ſhoulders more advanced than the croup, as before expreſſed. A good profeſſor, mounted on a well-dreſſed horſe, can, however, *terre-à-terre* with one-fifth of the ſhoulder forward; but it muſt be a perſon completely maſter of the Equeſtrian Art, who can perform on equal lines, loſing ſight of the oblique direction altogether.—Laſtly, the poſition of the rider's body ſhould be firm, his foot rather light in the ſtirrup, on the ſide approaching, the other giving the *aid*; which is done without moving the body. The horſe muſt be well raiſed, loſty in head, and, to give him freedom, his haunches muſt be kept in a juſt poſition; the *appui*, rather ſtrong on the oppoſite ſide, namely, if you *terre à terre* to the right; ſuch *appui* and *aid* are to the left, and *vice verſa*.

THE

THE PIROUETTE.

Is the action of a horſe galloping entirely round, either right or left, on a centre, with one leg, as it were, on the ground.—To complete the horſe in this difficult air, much ſkill and patience are required; but he ſhould not, by any means, be exerciſed in it, till he is perfectly ſuppled in all directions, namely, in the *terre à-terre* in a circle of twenty yards diameter; in a large ſquare, and by the ſide of a wall, keeping the head, ſhoulder, and croup, to the centre in every oblique poſition; he ſhould alſo be well inſtructed in the *demi-voltes*, or what very properly may be termed half-*pirouettes*; for example, ſuppoſe the *pirouette* is intended to the right, the horſe in ſuch caſes, raiſes his fore-feet and the left hindermoſt, ſupporting himſelf on the right, while turning, and *vice verſa*: if to the left, the aids are the outſide rein to the turn, raiſed ſomewhat higher than the inſide, firſt throwing him well on his haunches—firm poſition and command of body, *appui* rather ſtrong, and the body of the rider and horſe towards the turn; at the ſame time, if the horſe's head be not ſufficiently high and obedient to the bridle-hand, the profeſſor will experience much interruption in the execution of this action, which may be conſidered as the SUBLIME of *cadence*.

It is a known fact, that the horſeman in battle, who has the beſt dreſſed horſe in this action, has a wonderful advantage over his opponent—nothing can bring ſuch a dragoon to the ground, but a ball.

THE

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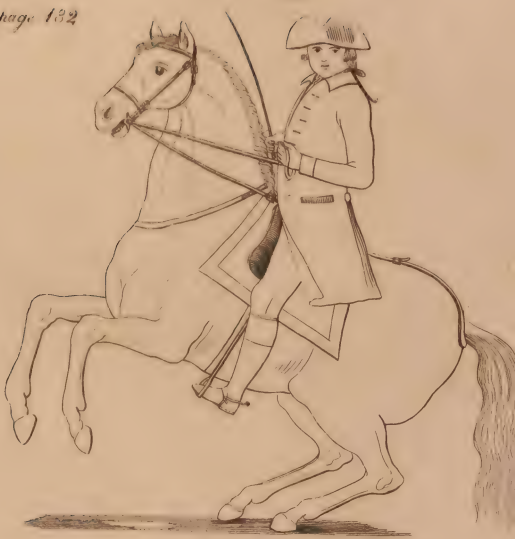

Sketch of the Pirouette

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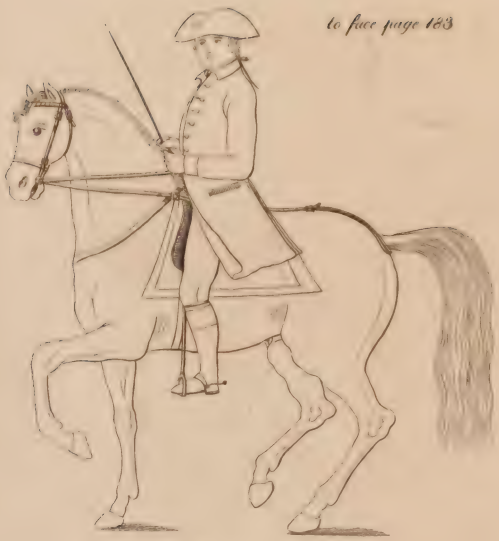

Sketch of the Piaffe

THE PIAFE.

Is a graceful air of parade in the action of the trot; the firſt leſſon is given between the two pillars; the profeſſor in the rear, with the whip and *chambriere*, encouraging him to move to the right, to the left, and ſometimes forward, until he is foreſhortened and well on his haunches; for the more he is ſo, the more graceful will be his action: this is effected by ſhort leſſons, long intervals, and frequent careſſes—care muſt be had to make him draw from the pillar-rope,* and by no means from the bridle, till far advanced, preſerving, however, throughout, a lofty head. Much judgement is, now, required to aid the horſe, particularly when mounted; whether advancing, retreating, or returning to either ſide; for it is at ſuch time, that the horſeman is obliged to call in the more tender aids of the heel and ſpur, together with the neceſſary aſſiſtance of the bridle-hand, and its delicate *appui*: this, it may be remarked, was the action made uſe of in the famous Equeſtrian minuet, forming part of the amuſements at Weſtminſter-bridge, firſt invented and attempted by the Author, who cauſed his horſe to mark his name on the ground of the Amphitheatre.

The few rules, directions, and obſervations, herein given, I preſent moſt reſpectfully to my country, as the reſult of my experience, during a practice of forty years in the ſervice of the public; to whom I beg to expreſs my moſt grateful ac-

* The pillar-rope (or collar) ſhould be very ſtrong, the noſe-part lined, and two inches broad, to prevent its chafing; the pillars ſhould be firm in the ground ſeven inches in diameter, and round; ſix feet four inches clear in height, and about five and a half feet in diſtance; ſtuffed and lined on the inſide.

nowledgments

knowledgments for the long and liberal patronage, with which my efforts, as well as thofe of my fon, have been fo diftinguifhedly honoured.

Convinced that it is not in mortals "TO COMMAND SUCCESS," I have always endeavoured "TO DESERVE IT;" and I truft, my patrons have been well aflured of every exertion, on my part, to render myfelf worthy of that liberality, which has ever been the pride of my heart to obtain.

Having faid thus much in behalf of the encouragement beftowed on my individual public labours, (which it is my ambition to fay, have been honoured with the ORDER OF MERIT, during my refidence in France,) and having refigned, for the term of feven years, the ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE OF ARTS, Weftminfter-bridge, with that in DUBLIN, in favour of my fon, (referving to myfelf the AMPHITHEATRE in PARIS,) I now leave HIM to the protection of that generous, difcerning public, of whom I am,

With becoming gratitude and refpect,

The moft obedient, and

The moft devoted humble fervant,

Hercules-Hall, Lambeth.
London, 1st of May,
1801.

Philip Aftley,
Profeffor of the Art of Riding.

EXPLA-

for Explanation of Letters and Figures &c. next page

EXPLANATION

OF THE

General Apparatus in the adjoining Page.

A—Caveſſon and cord.

B—Snaffle-reins, intended to adjuſt the given point, or exact poſition of the horſe's head.

C. D—The breaſt-plate, belonging to the buckle-furcingle, bearing-rein, crupper, &c. and intended to keep the whole ſecure.

1—Profeſſor in the act of working the horſe; circle to the left.

2—His aſſiſtant, in each hand a piſtol, waiting for the ſignal from the Profeſſor.

3—The poſition of the horſe's head.

4—The caveſſon cord; two ſmall rings thereon.

5—A ſmall hand-line, (paſſed through two ſmall rings to keep it ſteady,) occaſionally uſed to refreſh the horſe's mouth, and to render it ſenſible to the motion of the hand, when the profeſſor judges proper to caſe him and reward his labour.

6—The leather buckle-furcingle, communicating with the breaſt-plate, crupper, bridle-reins, bearing-reins, &c.

7—The chambriere.

8—A baſket, containing (the ſuppoſed) rewards, viz. corn, carrots, apples, pears, &c.

9—A

9—A drum, for the familiarizing a horſe to it, when wanted.

10—A flag, uſed for the like purpoſe.

11—A trumpet to ſound on ſimilar occaſions.

12—Fire-works of different exploſions, intended to be let off at the will and pleaſure of the profeſſor, either by the aſſiſtance of a rope match, lighted, or by the leader of ſuch fire-works being conducted by the pan of a piſtol, primed only—for the like purpoſe—the piſtol being previouſly made faſt to the pillar, &c.——according to art.

13—Sketch of a bag to be filled with any given weight of ſand, the more effectually to habituate the horſe to bear his rider; and which the author buckles round the horſe for ſuch purpoſe.

14—Sketch of a ſpur-ſtick, ſix feet long, uſed on various occaſions; alſo to accuſtom the horſe to the uſe of the ſpur, previouſly to his being mounted.

15—The aſſiſtant's dog, which he occaſionally cauſes to bark, at the pleaſure of the profeſſor.

16—A ſmall hand-whip, hung on the pillar, for the uſe of the profeſſor.

N. B. The various pages in the body of the work, and which refer to this ſketch, will fully explain, and direct the young practitioner to the knowledge and utility of the whole of ſuch apparatus, &c.

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